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of
Stirling

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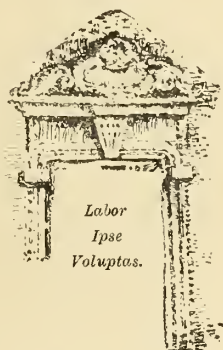
To Dr. Robert Mackenzie
with compliments J. S. Fleming

THE
OLD LUDGINGS
OF STIRLING

BEING THE ANCIENT RESIDENCES OF THE NOBILITY,
CLERGY, AND CIVIC DIGNITARIES NOT HITHERTO
DELINEATED AND DESCRIBED,

BY J. S. FLEMING, F.S.A. (SCOT.)

*Illustrated by Forty Pen and Ink Drawings
by the Author.*



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PREFACE.

THE reflection in turning over the leaves of a sketch book of 1850 that of so many buildings and objects therein delineated, so few had survived ; and farther, that many others of architectural merit and historical or picturesque interest existed in the more obscure streets, wynds, and courts in the old parts of the town which had never been delineated and described, induced me to search out and continue the series of sketches which I now venture to bring before the public.

These were sketched from time to time in the spare evenings, and I have endeavoured to show not merely the picturesque features of each subject, but also the more characteristic architectural details, and to include all the interesting remains which have not hitherto been illustrated.

The descriptions were given in a condensed form in a paper I read before a meeting of our local Natural History Society, when the original sketches in pen and ink were exhibited, and the whole is now published in the hope that it will prove interesting to my fellow townsmen, and also form a permanent record of these buildings, which in the ordinary course of things must soon disappear.

In cases of doubtful identity, I have increased the number of these illustrations, to assist future enquirers.

To Mr. W. B. COOK, a zealous local antiquary, I am indebted for several interesting footnotes, and for indispensable information, which greatly assisted my reference to the old Registers, themselves frankly placed at my disposal by Mr. GALBRAITH ; and these, with Sir MICHAEL CONNAL'S printed Old Burgh Records, and the title deeds of many of the properties, furnished the other sources of my information.

J. S. F.

STIRLING, *7th June, 1897.*

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Old . . .
buildings
of . . .
Stirling. .



THE gradual effacement during the last fifty years of the old residences of the nobility, church dignitaries, and municipal officials, erected at the best period of architecture, is an occasion of regret to the antiquary ; and by the same modernising and rebuilding, the few remaining ancient buildings, which time, more merciful than man, has hitherto spared to us, will soon disappear, and little remain to testify to the occupancy by the Court and its attendant officials during the sixteenth century of the old town of Stirling.

Many of the vanished interesting houses have been preserved by old prints and

drawings, and more recently by the photographer, but there exist in the bye-ways of our wynds, courts, and closes in the upper parts of the town, numerous remains of these ancient ludgings which have escaped both the artist and the ubiquitous camera, and which are still worthy of preservation.

Some of these old houses are both artistically picturesque and good specimens of architecture to which we are unable to do justice. In our perambulations for subjects in these localities, two striking observations forced themselves on us, not so far as we learn yet noted. First, that from the middle of the sixteenth century until the end of the seventeenth century was an epoch of great prosperity and consequent advancement in civilisation, and to the earlier part of this period is ascribed the best examples of the tasteful domestic architecture remaining to us. Second, that the town proper was of a very limited area. We found no remains of buildings bearing marks of an earlier period than the

eighteenth century, outside the limits comprehending an area including Broad Street, St. John Street, Spittal Street, and Baker Street to the Infirmary, St. Mary's Wynd to the King's Stables, with an exception hereinafter noted. The old Burgh Records, about 1473, mention only High Street* or High Gait, South Gait or Back Raw, Middle Raw, St. Mary's Wynd or Vennel, Kirk Wynd, Castle Wynd, and Friars' Wynd, with buildings on the Castle Hill and at the Old Bridge. In the years between 1544 and 1550, the town being divided into quarters, each overlooked by a Bailie, the householders, or heads of families, are censused at 385, of which 86 are given to St. Mary's Wynd, Castle Wynd, and north part of Hiegait (now Broad Street); 98 to Back Raw, south side of the Hiegait, and a part

* While the words *Alto Vico* in a charter dated 1492, and printed in the first volume of the Burgh Records, undoubtedly mean the present Broad Street, "High Street" in the same volume is sometimes merely the King's highway, *vicus regius*, and may stand for any other street. The frequently-occurring *summum vici regii* in the Burgh Register of Sasines is still more misleading. It may be the High Street, and it may not.

beneath on the north side; 98 to the South Quarter from Belgebrig (at the lower end of Bow Street) downwards; and 103 to the North Quarter, including, no doubt, the Middle Raw, afterwards Baxter Wynd, now Baker Street, and Friars' Wynd, &c.*

During this period, and for nearly a century prior to 1603, the Old Town was the residence of the Regents—Lennox, Mar, Morton, Moray—noblemen, highest Church dignitaries, and the lairds of adjoining estates, to whose ludgings the Burgh Registers make numerous references, and many of whose successors retain to this day in their families the names and estates of their ancestors.

These buildings mostly belong to the period of the Regencies, and down to Cromwell's Protectorate, and lie within the town walls. We may by imagination depict the town as lying on the north

* The list of names includes Robert Spittal, founder of Spittal's Hospital, and John Cowane, grandfather of the founder of Cowane's Hospital.

slope of a hill of the shape of Abbey Craig, its walls running from the south Castle rampart by the Churchyard and Back Walk, or South Brae, then a grassy unplanted slope, to the present King Street, and then to Burrows Yett, about Port Street, and from the north rampart by the King's Stables Road to the St. Mary's Wynd port at the foot of this road, running along at the back dykes (here on an elevated rock), of the gardens of St. Mary's Wynd and Baker Street, where no built wall was required, to Friars' Wynd port, and thence to Burrows Yett. At least, the old buildings are comprehended within this area, thus leaving out in the cold the scattered houses on the Gowan Hills, the more important hamlets at the Bridge and Shore, and the two valuable mills.

That no wall existed on the north, forming a reasonable protection from invasion, is proved by the fact that the Magistrates, in January, 1746, in justification of their action in surrendering the town to Prince Charles, and in

defence of themselves from accusations both of cowardice and disloyalty made in the *St. James' Gazette*, explain that "the north part of the town is open and without walls, having only some low fences encompassing gardens and parks, and in the two large entries on that side a slight dry stone wall and gate had been built, and some of the entries to the gardens stopt up," and add, "that the small importance of the slight dykes and hedges on the north side of the town, everyone who had seen them may know how slight the defenses were."

The style of domestic architecture in the aforesaid period may have been derived from Holland, with which the town was in direct communication. Of this period the best forms, of wonderful beauty and variety, are to be seen in the old continental towns of Bruges, Ghent, and Antwerp, as in the middle ages almost the whole houses gabled to the streets, while in the later period of Renaissance they became stepped and broken in a fantastic manner. Corbie steps were

borrowed with the name from France, and this form was at its highest prevalence in Edinburgh during the periods between 1620 and 1640. In Stirling it seems to have prevailed much later.

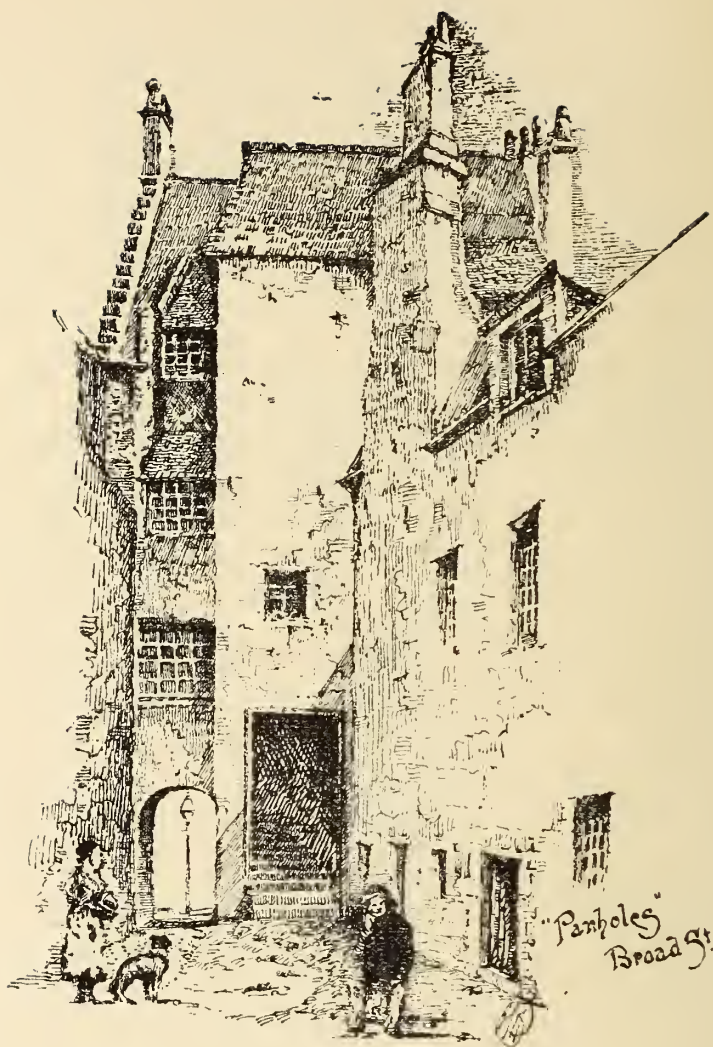
There was direct communication by water with Holland, where indeed we find some of the Stirling merchants had settled down to trade. Thus, in the year of the pest in Holland a proclamation was issued prohibiting the landing of goods from Holland at Stirling Shore, and in 1631, Charles Shearer of Dort, a burgess, gives 1000 merks to the kirk for his love to the burgh. In 1654, a new steel "bauk," or beam, for the scales at the Tron is commissioned from Holland, and the kirk bell sent to David Stevenson to be recast there in 1663.

As might be expected, the Royal servants attending at the Castle had their residences in the vicinity, and we learn from a sasine given by Bailie David Forrester, on 23rd May, 1595, that he passed to "a little chalmer, pertaining to Christopher Lambe, maister

cuik to His Majesty (James VI.) on the Castlehill* of the burgh, bigget by him on the craig of the south side of his dwelling house adjacent thereto," and gave sasine, Christopher paying two shillings Scots conform to the act of Council made thereupon.

*At this period there were dwelling-houses on the south side of the Castlehill, as well as on the north, Snowdon House being erected on the site of some of the old cottages inhabited by the servants of the King's household.





Graham of Panholes' Ludging.

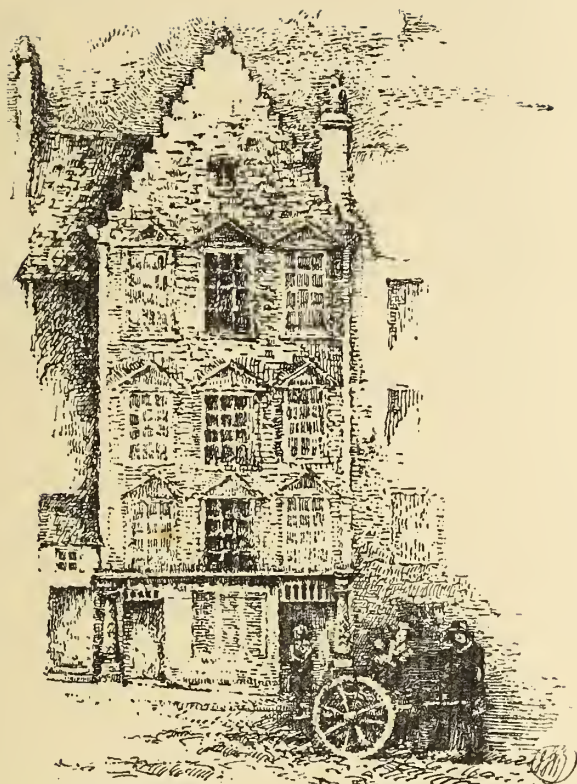
OF the two crow-stepped gabled houses adjoining each other on the north side of Broad Street, the double-gabled one, although apparently the older, has no pretensions to architectural interest, bears no name, date, or inscription, but is vaulted. At the back of it, however, a square turn-pike stair and projecting windows give our sketch the idea of one of the Old English seventeenth century houses. This ludging seems to have belonged in 1529 to James Kirk, Commissioner to the Earl of Argyll, and in 1611 to William Graham of Panholes.*

* William Graham inherited the property from his father, John Graham of Baldoran, Town Clerk of Stirling from 1529 to 1575. It is a curious circumstance that four adjoining properties opposite the "Mercat Croce" belonged to Town Clerks—John Graham, James Norie, William Barclay, John Williamson, and David Williamson his son.

Town Clerk Norie's Ludging.*

THE absence of architectural interest in the preceding tenement is compensated for in this ludging, which forms a very perfect specimen of the Netherland domestic architecture prevalent in the seventeenth century, with classical forms incorporated. It has a narrow frontage, is three stories in height, with three windows on each storey, the two side ones being simulate, and an attic window. The ground floor—now a shop—has a heavy cornice supported by two small lozen-marked pillars. It is of freestone, so wonderfully preserved as to deceive as to its age, and is in regular courses. The nine windows of the three flats are treated alike on classical lines of moulded jambs and lintels or architraves, with pediments of horizontal and raking cornices, the

* This ludging, easily known by the initials carved on the front, made a good centre for identifying the houses on each side of it.



Town Clerk Norrie's Lodging.

tympanum of each containing initials or inscriptions, for which they form fine settings. The terminal stone of the gable is a colossal projecting female head of a sphinx-like aspect, but may be a portrait.* The ground floor, back and front, is vaulted, and the rooms are wainscotted in panels. The original entrances were both from the close, one having a projecting lintel with jambs.

The inscriptions within the various tympani are as follows—

Top Flat.

I R 1671 A L

Second Flat.

I N SOLI DEO GLORIA A R
 ("Glory to God alone.")

First Flat.

ARBOR VITAE SAPIENTIA MURUS AHENEUS BONA CONSCIENTIA
 ("Wisdom is the tree of life." "A good conscience is a brazen wall.")

We learn from Rector Hutchison that *Murus aheneus bona conscientia* was a favourite motto at the time when Latin mottoes were in fashion. Sometimes *sana*

* In a clear light this stone resembles a bewigged head, and may have been intended as a representation of the Town Clerk himself.

(sound, or clear) is written in place of *bona*. In this form it is the motto of the Earl of Scarborough. The original seems taken from—

*Hic murus aheneus esto,
Nil conscire sibi, nulla pallescere culpa.*

HOR. Epist. i., 160.

These Christian and moral precepts, with names and initials of the owner and his wife, and the date of the building, are very common introductions during this period.

From the Burgh Register of Sasines, it appears that James Robertson, the younger, died possessor of the old building preceding the erection of this ludging, and was succeeded by his three daughters, Agnes, Jean, and Marie, who, with the husbands of the first two, were infeft under marriage contracts, on 15th September, 1659. The present building was erected in 1671 by James Norie, Town Clerk, and his sister-in-law, Jean Robertson, whose initials are, with Agnes Robertson, Norie's wife, those above mentioned.*

* If I R stand for Jean Robertson, A L may be the initials of a second husband. Her husband in 1659 was Thomas Anderson, merchant.

The rebuilding of this house may be ascribed to the order for demolition and re-erection of ruinous tenements issued by the Magistrates in 1671.

James Norie, who seems to have had a good standing in his profession of notary, succeeded William Barclay as Town Clerk in 1650, and appears almost continuously to have retained his office (it was then a yearly appointment) down to 1679. He is shown by the Burgh Records to have been a discreet and efficient servant, and entrusted with many important commissions.*

* He died about 1680, being survived by his wife.--
Dunblane Testaments.



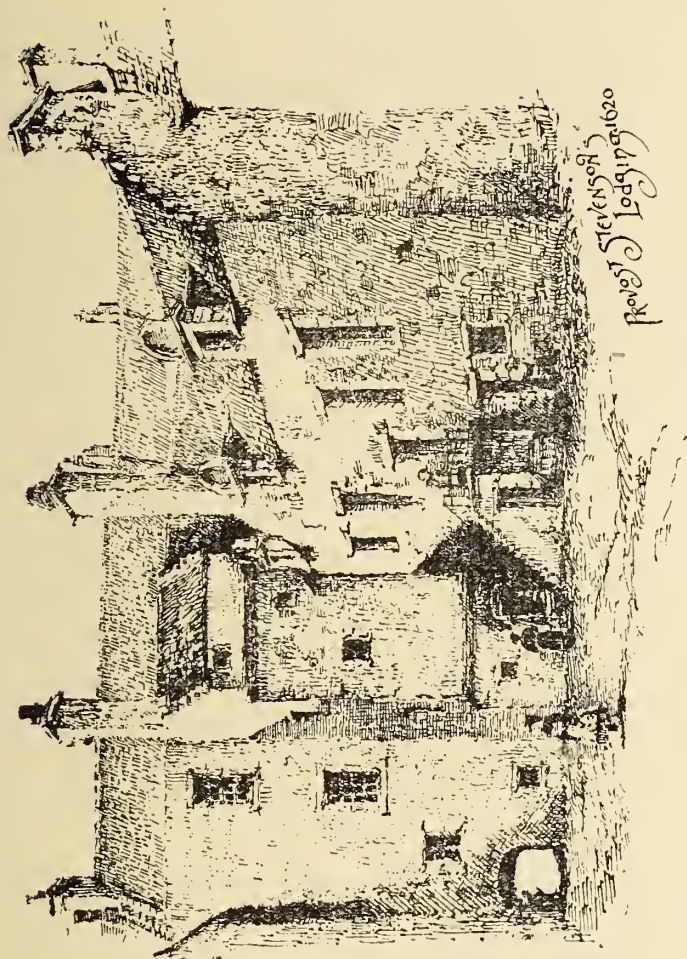
FINIAL OF GABLE.

Provost Stevenson's Lodging.

IN the courtyard entered by the pend in the tenement immediately on the east of Norie's house, is a two-storey house with three circular-headed dormer windows and front chimney. The four windows (one of which now answers as a door for a recently erected outside stair) seem from their regularity and height to light a large room or hall. The house has a crow-stepped gable, and was originally entered from the square tower or staircase of the larger front tenement, formerly the south side of courtyard, the door jambs and lintels being moulded. The back view of this south house gives an impression of greater antiquity than the front, and this side has not yet been under the hands of the modernizer.

The buildings in 1595 belonged to James Stevenson, maltman,* to whom

* They were previously the property of James Callander of Halls of Airth, one of the Bailies of the Burgh.



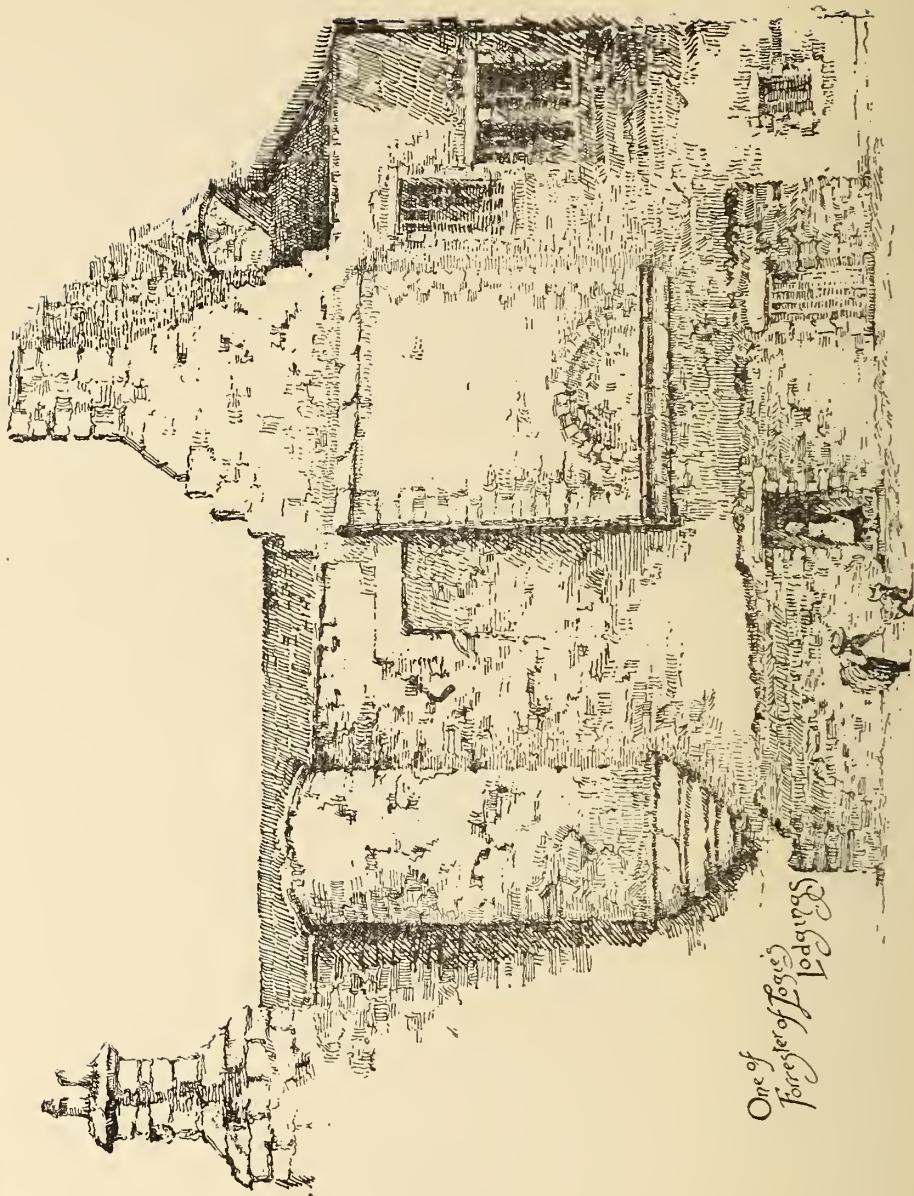
the Town Council gave liberty to take seven ells east and west "from his work-house end," and nine ells south and north at the west end of his house "and that off the gait now lyand waist." In 1597 he is one of four of a deputation entrusted with the firlots to get adjusted in Edinburgh, and on 13th October, 1598, is one of the inquest for fixing the annual price of victual.

On 21st September, 1629, Alex. Cunningham, contravening the Act "by bigging with timber under the foir stair of umquhile James Stevenson's foreland forenent the Mercate Cross," is prosecuted by the neighbours with the Fiscal's concurrence, and ordered to demolish the timber work, etc. Robert Stevenson, who succeeded to his father in the properties, was Provost in 1656. The present houses were erected after his father's death, probably in 1630, and after the above litigation. The Provost appears commissioned in April, 1661, to ride to Kilspindie to urge Hary Guthrie to accept the office of minister of the

Parish Church, but (probably from illness) his son James goes in his stead. He was then ex-Provost. In September, 1661, having been re-elected Provost in lieu of Duncan Nairn, he protests before William Barclay, Town Clerk, that "he shall be free of all hazard that may ensue in re-electing him Provost in lieu of Duncan at this time."*

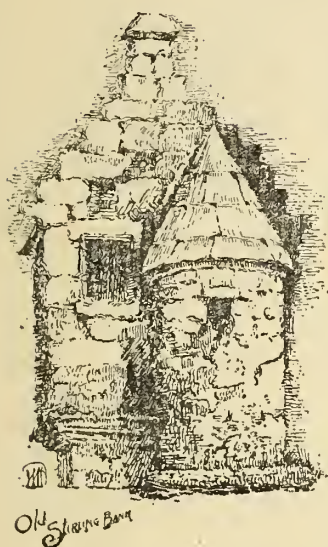
* Among succeeding proprietors of Provost Stevenson's ludging were Alexander Barclay, writer, William Barclay, his son, Town Clerk, and James Finlayson, a later holder of the same office.





One of
Forrester of Logies
Lodges

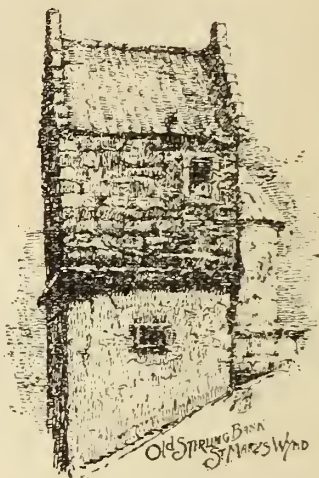
Ludgings of Forrester of Logie.



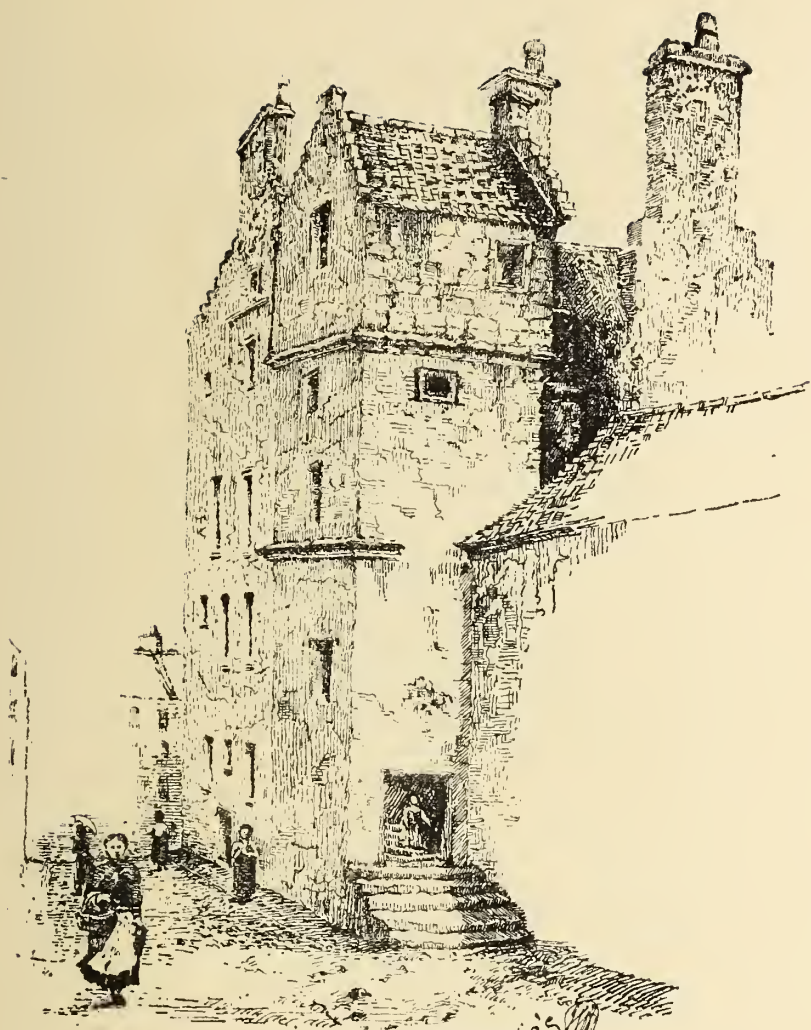
THE ownership of these two large tenements, attached and forming the corner of Broad Street and St. Mary's Wynd, is traced in 1583 to the Forresters of Logie, and the large tenement in Broad Street, situated to the immediate west thereof, with the pend running through

it, seems to be what is named in the Burgh Records as "The Town's New House," built by the Town Council on the site of an old tenement belonging to another member of the Forrester family

(Forrester of Garden), and acquired by them from him in 1719, and said to have been intended for an hostelry, or inn, for which it was specially adapted. It was, however, never so used, but let during the town's ownership for shops and dwelling-houses. The northmost of the Forresters' two lodgings, fronting St. Mary's Wynd,



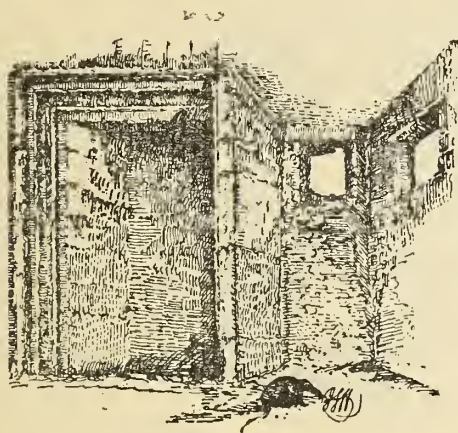
with square staircase entering from that street, has a picturesque house of one apartment with crow-stepped gables and attaching turret, the latter roofed with stone, but only visible from the north end of St. Mary's Wynd, and in the court entering by the Broad Street pend. The steps in this staircase are modern, and there has been a change of some kind from the original entrance disjoining the



Forester & Logie's
Lodging.

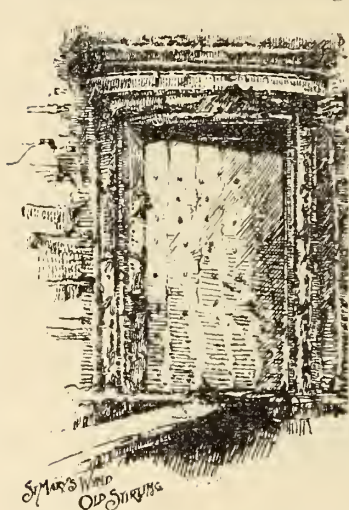
staircase from the turret, between which there is a gap on the top flat.

The doorway of the small upper apartment or house entering from the top landing, is, with the chimney jambs and lintel of the house itself, as seen through



the broken floor, heavily moulded of superior sculpture, as shown in the sketches. As seen from the Broad Street pend, the back part of the northmost house has a large turret and square projecting wall or gable in keeping with it,

the latter having an auxiliary or supporting arch, while a broad moulding surrounds the whole back wall. The Mary Wynd front of this building is modern, with four large windows, used at one time as a hall. As we have given separate draw-



ings from various points of view, of these two large ludgings, detailed description is rendered unnecessary to understand and appreciate the fine old manorial appearance which they must originally have presented. They are amongst the best

specimens we have met with of these ancient ludgings, and must have been worthy dwellings for so ancient and influential a family as the Forresters, whose members for more than a century occupied, almost in succession, the civic

chair, an office of such honour in these days as to be coveted by the noblemen and landed proprietors in the neighbourhood.

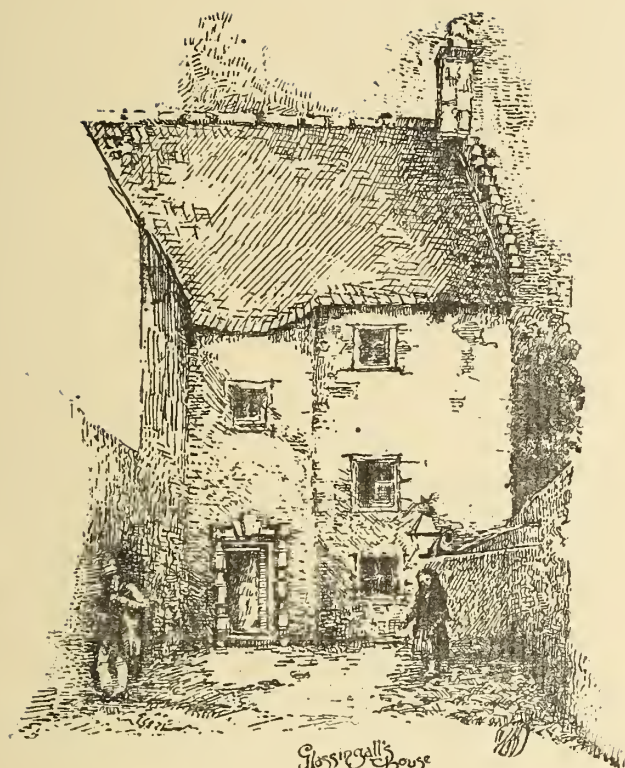
The date of these buildings is very probably between 1520 and 1583, and they seem to have remained in the Forrester family down to 1658. Both ludgings being now let to a class of tenants not likely to appreciate the original inside fittings, the rooms seem divested of all their former grandeur.

For some years the corner house was occupied as the Stirling Bank, an institution which collapsed in 1826.

Glassingall House, Broad Street.

THIS house, which stands at the east end of a close at the foot of Broad Street, was the town-house of the proprietor of Glassingall, near Dunblane. It was erected, as the keystone of the doorway bears, in 1737. It has a fine appearance from its terraced garden on the east side, has large windows, and is vaulted on the ground floor. The main rooms are beautifully wainscoted to the ceiling, with press and room doors after the same design, the doors being fitted with fine antique brass hinges. The design of wainscoting, it seems, attracted the attention and pencil of an architect publishing a work on ancient architecture. On a large panel over the fireplace is a large superior oil painting of Stirling Castle, evidently an original,* and there

* An engraving published in 1751, and entitled "East View of Stirling Castle," exactly reproduces this excellent picture, but who the artist was is not known.



Glassingale House
Bristol

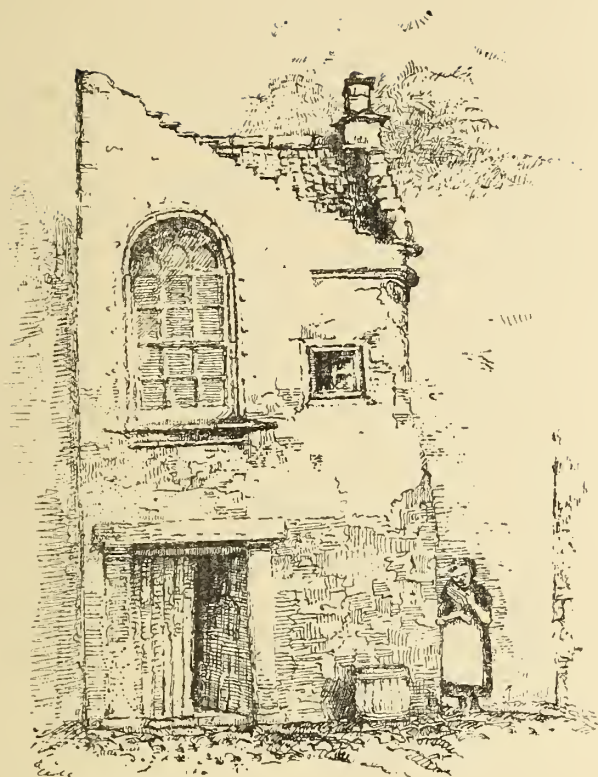
is also a composition subject on a panel over the doorway. The view from the back windows, which is unobstructed, cannot be surpassed, and the house shows a fine taste in both the builder and the owner.

Mr. Alexander Smith of Glassingall, who died about 1845, repeatedly alleged he had a will, even on his death-bed, but it was never found; and it was ultimately conjectured, after an exhaustive search, that in destroying some private papers he had inadvertently allowed a holograph will to drop amongst them. His fortune reverted to the Crown, who made a gift of the heritage to Thomas Stuart Smith, artist, the founder of the Smith Institute, Stirling.*

* Thomas Stuart Smith was his relative, but having been abroad studying art for some years before the Laird died, he had some difficulty in establishing his identity. In a biographical sketch of Stuart Smith, which appeared in the *Art Journal* in September, 1896, it is stated that he would have been kept out of the estate but for the powerful influence of the Duke of Argyll and Professor Owen, who exerted themselves on his behalf.

Old Coffee-House, Bow Street.

THE first coffee-house was set up in London by a Turkey merchant during the Commonwealth, for the purpose of obtaining news in absence of newspapers. It was also used for making appointments, and enabling people to pass evenings socially at a small charge. The convenience was so great that the fashion spread fast. Every man of the upper and middle classes went daily to his coffee-house to learn and discuss the news. They had each their orator as an institution, and they formed a fourth estate. Coffee-houses were ascribed as an institution peculiar to London, and of no other foreign city. The Court, jealous of their power for mischief, tried unsuccessfully to put them down. Each shade of rank and profession, religion and politics, had its own house and headquarters. Wills' Coffee-house being sacred to polite literature, and there being no Parliament in Charles the



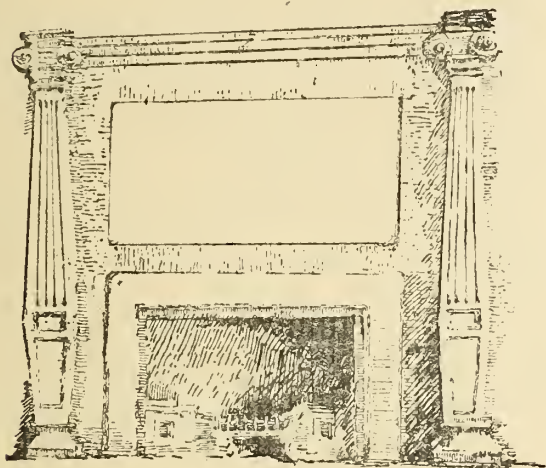
*Old Coffee House
New Street.*

First's time, from 1629 to 1640, these establishments were the only refuges for discussion of politics.

The coffee-house system extended to Scotland. The house here sketched is at the end of a close in Bow Street, and it was probably erected early in the eighteenth century. It was the principal hostelry in 1745, and had convenience for stabling and lodgings for bagmen or travellers, and latterly it became a rendezvous for the tanners and farmers meeting on Fridays, being convenient for the market held in Broad Street adjoining. It was early in this century a great howff for the professional class. It is said the most of the practical jokes, not then uncommon, were therein concocted over something stronger than coffee. A former proprietor, still alive, can speak personally of its being crowded on market days by county gentlemen, and he remembers, when a boy, of seeing the horses for the Perth and Glasgow coaches being stabled in the back premises and taken to water at the Old Bridge.

The Stirling Coffee-house has likewise an historical connection. In January, 1746, Prince Charles, on his obtaining the surrender of the town from the Provost and Magistrates, removed from Bannockburn House and lived here during the time of his siege of Stirling Castle, held by General Blackney. My informant says that Margaret Paterson, whose brother had the old corner shop between Broad Street and Bow Street, now rebuilt, told him her mother, when a child, recollected of seeing two Highlanders walking sentry in front of this close, and of being held up by her father to see Prince Charlie himself pass out with an attendant guard of two soldiers. Margaret Paterson died about forty years ago at the age of eighty. Brember, an old hostler of Macpherson's, a former proprietor in the knowledge of this tradition, and who became a town's guide in his old age, always brought visitors to see the house as one of the then objects of interest relating to Prince Charlie's residence here. He survived to eighty years of age.

The house was owned by Macpherson as an hostelry in 1820, when he removed to the Saracen Head. It was afterwards kept by Andrew Kerr, and then by Morris M'Intyre, when it ceased to be an inn,



*Manile's
of Old Cesset*

and was variously occupied as a private school, &c. William Marshall of Bridge of Allan, founder of the Marshall Trust, who lived to be ninety years of age, in relating his early experiences as a

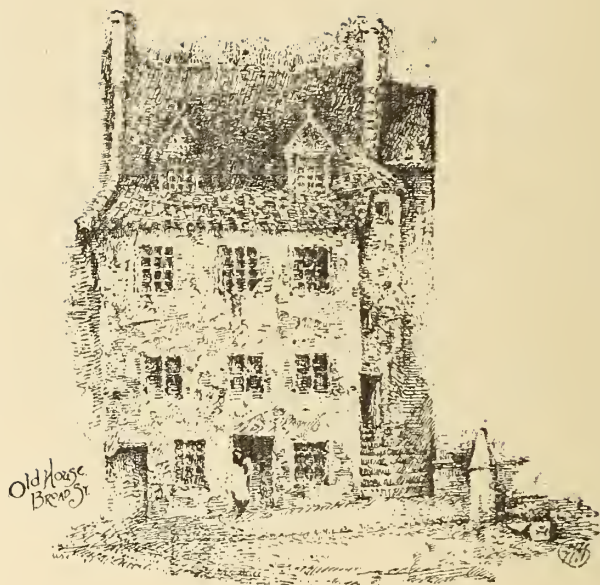
traveller, described this hostelry, where he put up in his younger days, as being famous for its three-horned morning rolls.*

The walls are very thick—the original roof was oak, with oak pins holding the slates. Its public room has a fine pilastered wooden chimney-piece, the columns having Ionic capitals with panel in centre, and the room seems originally to have been wainscoted.

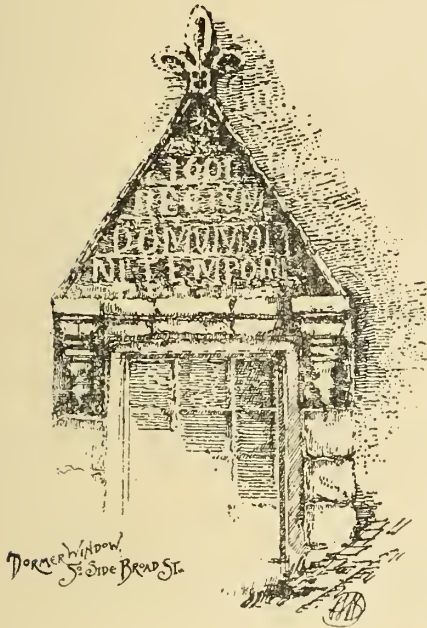
The sketches show the front of the house, and the wood chimney-piece, the only evidence of its former importance.

* According to the author of "Stirling, A Satirical Poem," published in 1809, the Coffee-house does not seem to have been either clean or comfortable. He says :—

"Like fishing nets, suspended cobwebs spread
From the black ceiling, almost touched my head ;
Placards, advertisements, defiled and torn,
And filthy maps the greasy walls adorn."



Quaint House in Broad Street.



THIS is the two-storey building with turnpike stair at the old Cross site, next to the Tolbooth. The modern front, being added to bring it into the street line, conceals the turnpike.

It has a special architectural in-

terest from the fine work of the quaint dormer windows, with Latin inscriptions and dormer terminals. The east dormer tympanum contains the inscription :—

DEO GLORIA

The terminal is a crescent. The west one, which bears the date 1601, and has for terminal a *fleur de lis*, shows the following inscription:—

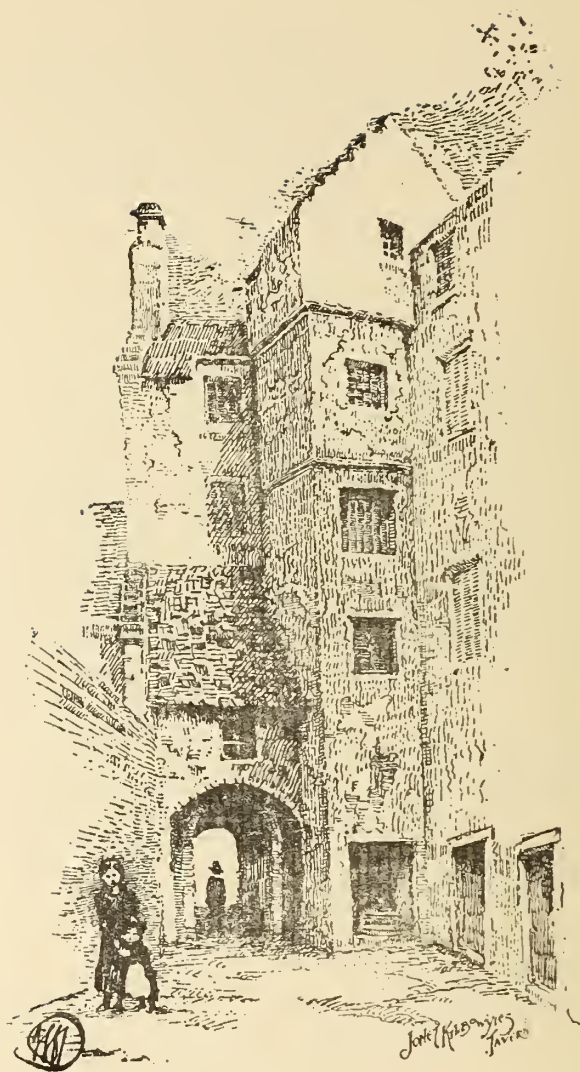
BENEDICAM
DOMINUM OM
NI TEMPORE

("I will bless the Lord at all times."—PSALM xxxiv. i.)

In heraldry the terminals would respectively represent the second and sixth sons, but are too commonly used to have any signification, being mere ornaments adopted at the taste of the builder.

A legend is said to be connected with this building in its erection by two unfrocked Friars, but the inscriptions bear no special meaning to support it.*

* In 1544, Robert Forrester of Calziemuck, Provost of Stirling, was proprietor of a house on this site, and in 1595 it belonged to Robert Forrester of Boquhan, also Provost. There is reason to believe that it was originally the property of Cambuskenneth Abbey.



Jonet Kilbowie's Tavern.

OUR view shows the back of "Darnley's House," at the foot of Broad Street, a building which is said to have been the nursery of James VI. and his son, Prince Henry. This, of course, is incorrect, the royal nursery being within the Castle, but the tradition may take its rise from the fact that the house was at one time the property of the Erskines of Mar, who were hereditary keepers of the Castle, and had also charge of the heirs of the Scottish throne from James V. down to Prince Henry. Lord John Erskine, afterwards Earl of Mar, disposed the house in Broad Street to his younger brother, Alexander Erskine of Gogar and Canglour, whose son, Thomas, Earl of Kellie, sold it to Jonet Kilbowie.* The supposition that

* Jonet was probably a daughter of the Andrew Kilbowie, "allacay to His Majestie," who was admitted a burgess and guildbrother for his good service during the time of the plague in the beginning of the seventeenth century.

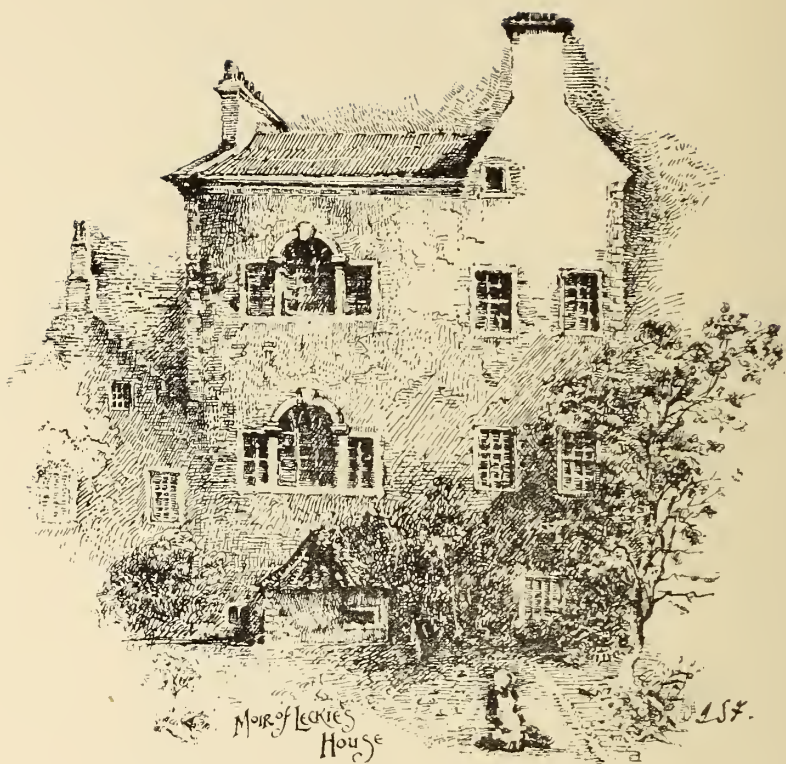
this was Willie Bell's tavern, when the Secretary Lethington was visited by Queen Mary in 1566, is probably erroneous. The Burgh Treasurer's Accounts show that in Jonet Kilbowie's time, between 1650 and 1660, the house was a thriving tavern and the scene of municipal festivities. One entry, dated September, 1651, reads as follows:—

Item, depursit, to Jonet Kilbowie, which wes
spent the tyme of the capitulation by and
attour quhat is specifiet in the former count at
the said capitulation, - - - £10 : 11 : 4

This was the surrender to General Monk in the previous August. Here is another item of interest:—

1660—September.--Item, to Jonet Kilbowie, for
dinner to the Provost and balyeis at the Latter
Fair, - - - - - £17 : 6 : 0

One of the Bailies, and the Convener and Deacons, who were not at the dinner in Janet's, were consoled with refreshments in Christopher Russall's house to the value of £8 18s. At this time every trifling event seems to have been made an excuse for convivial meetings by the Provost, Bailies, and Town Councillors, all at the expense of the town.



Moir of Leckie's Lodging.

IN the same close as Jonet Kilbowie's Tavern, is a house of imposing appearance, which was probably built in 1659, when David Moir acquired the property. The building is three storeys in height, with vaulted cellars indicating the later erection of the upper storeys. There is a fine terraced garden to the east, with a beautiful uninterrupted view. The Moirs of Leckie were an important and influential family in Stirling for several generations.

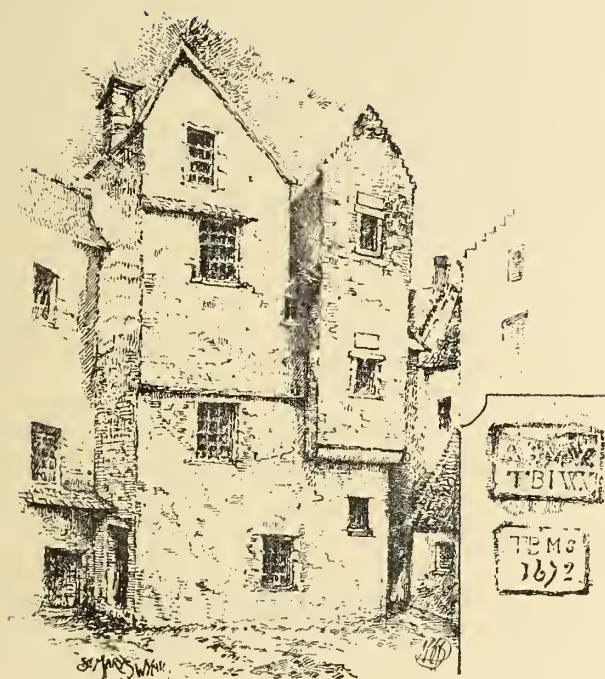


Bailie Bauchop's Ludging.

THOMAS BAUCHOP, on 25th May, 1658, is infeft in that back tene-ment of land, with the close and yard thereof of old pertaining to the deceased Alexander Bauchop, grandfather to the deceased Thomas Bauchop's brother, lying in the head of the Mary Wynd, on the east side thereof, as only lawful son to Thomas Bauchop, merchant, with north part of yard, excepting the laigh vaults, pertaining to the heirs of the deceased Thomas Bauchop, with entrance by stair of north house.

Thomas Bauchop was Treasurer in 1668, &c., and Bailie in 1673 and 1674.

Above the windows of the eastward part of the house are two inscribed slabs. The initials A.B., M.W., are doubtless those of Alexander Bauchop and Mary Watson, his wife; and T.B., I.W., those of the uncle, Thomas Bauchop,



and his wife ; while the initials on the second plate, T.B., M.S., are probably those of Bailie Thomas Bauchop and his wife, with date of erection, 1672.*

It is to be remembered the Town Council had issued orders in this and previous years for the taking down and rebuilding of dangerous ruinous buildings, and many of the existing old houses date their erection to this period owing to this cause.

* The close continued to be known as Bauchop's Close for many years afterwards.



Old Gib's Inn.

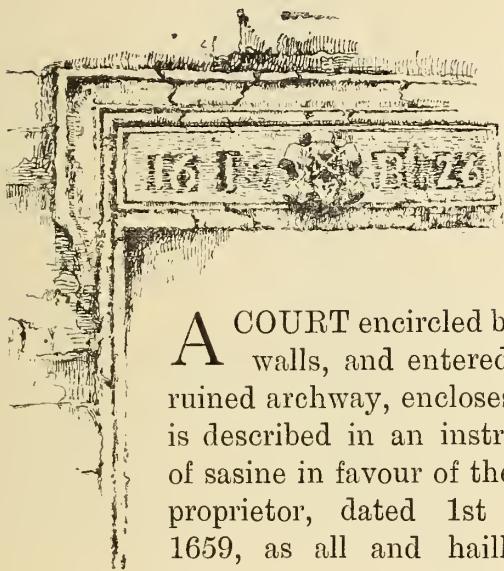
THIS house, which is No. 31 St. Mary's Wynd, is now a common lodging-house. It is of two storeys, with turnpike stair, each floor containing two large apartments, entered directly off the turnpike, both wainscoted with squares to ceiling, the latter having an old-pattern cornice of eighteen inches in depth, and chimney jambs and lintels of stones deeply moulded. It has two remarkable features—a heavy arched kitchen fireplace to the back, 9 ft. by 6 ft., and an arch, like a tunnel, upon which the house is actually built, the barrel-vaulted ground floor being about 18 ft. wide and 11 ft. in height, running the whole length and breadth of the house, with two-thirds of the turnpike stair projecting into it. The house bears no date or inscription, and seems to have been built specially for a tavern.*

* This was the principal hotel in Stirling until the erection of the Golden Lion Hotel, which was built by James Wingate about 1780, and afterwards acquired by the Gibbs, and known as Gibb's Inn for many years.



old G. B. J. 1877

Bowie's Court, St. Mary's Wynd.

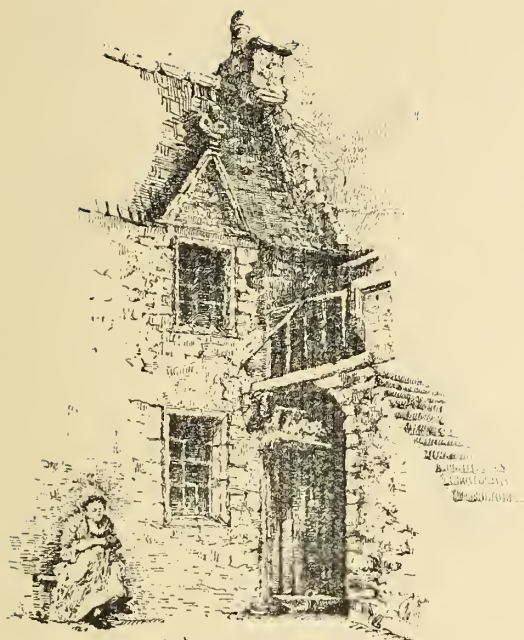


A COURT encircled by high walls, and entered by a ruined archway, encloses what is described in an instrument of sasine in favour of the then proprietor, dated 1st June, 1659, as all and haill that tenement of land, close, yard, little house and little yard upon the north side of the said tenement “now converted into ane hale great ludging or tenement of land, and ane yard, all pertaining of

old to Jerome Bowie, thereafter to the deceased James Bowie, sergeant of the late king's wine cellar, his son, thereafter to the deceased Anna and Elizabeth Bowie, his only daughters, etc., lying within said burgh at the foot of St. Mary's Wynd thereof, and on the east side of the same betwixt the high street that leads to the Bridge of Stirling on the east, the way or passage that leads to the Gowane Hills on the north, and the yard of the deceased Andrew Young on the south parts."

The "great ludging" was erected on the family property by James Bowie in 1626. He was, on 17th July, 1617, admitted a burgess under the designation of "James Bowie, sergeant of His Majesty's cellars"—a whole list of the King's servants being admitted at the same time.

The ludging forms the east side of the courtyard, which is about 60 feet long by 30 feet wide, and thus faces the gateway. It is two storeys in height, with corbie-stepped gables, and has



Bowie's Court
St Mary's Wynd

two dormer windows to the back. It had formerly two to the front, but only one now remains, considerable alterations having, within the last fifty years, been made on the ludging and court. The dormers have all different terminals. A remarkable feature is the finely-moulded front doorway of the ludging

itself, with carved lintel (nearly concealed by a modern excrescence of an outside stair to the upper flat).* The figures, and coat of arms (a scroll enclosing a deer's head, with a feathered arrow and spear crossed), and the initials, I. B., 1626, apparently give

* This carved lintel had escaped notice until discovered by Mr. Fleming. It is not improbable that before Bowie's time the "great ludging" had belonged to the Shaws of Knockhill, who became extinct prior to 1626. Andrew Baird, a successor of the Bowies, is stated in a sasine to be in possession of the house pertaining of old to George Schaw of Knockhill.

its owner's name and armorial bearings, with the date of erection.

The windows in the gable to Irvine Place ("the street that leads to the Bridge") are of a considerable height, and the front wall and gateway to the Court facing St. Mary's Wynd are three feet thick. Several stones in the latter are very large, and the gate, from the marks of the hinges in the arches, must have been a very heavy one. The arch stones are very finely cut, and are ornamental.

The arrangement points to the ludging being *without* the protection of the town walls, and a fortress within itself, and from the then boundaries of the adjacent properties on the west side, belonging to a Duncan Watson in 1699, which are described as *outside* the Port Gate, this was then the case with Bowie's Ludging.

This Court was known in our early days as Bowie's Court,* and tradition

* In Wood's Plan of 1820, this property is entered as belonging to a Mr. Bowie, who, however, could scarcely have been a descendant of the old family, the Sergeant of His Majesty's wine cellar having left no son.



Century
Bones Court

correctly carries its tale for more than 200 years—another evidence of tradition seldom erring, though often exaggerating.

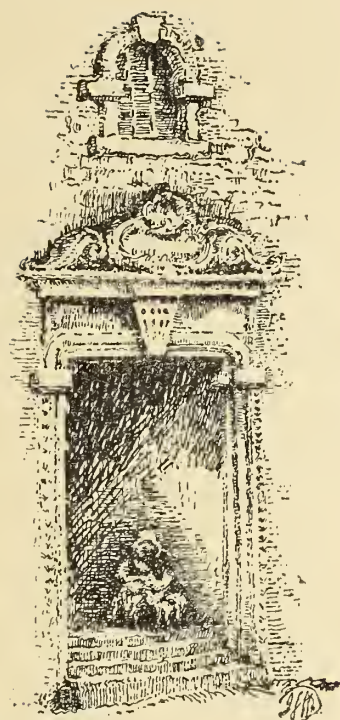
In 1745, the Mary Wynd Port Gate existed, as we find a charge for two locks for Mary Wynd Port and Friars Wynd Port Gates in the town's accounts on the occasion of the threatened siege by the rebels.



An Old Doorway.

N O. 74 St. Mary's Wynd owns this fine doorway with scroll pediment and small quaint window over it. The house of two storeys is partly below the level of the street in front, and at the back is three storeys in height. The interior contains no marks of any kind beyond those of a simple dwelling, and no date or inscription. Its erection, judging by the doorway and pediments, may be ascribed to early in the eighteenth century.





ST MARY'S WIND

Bothwell, or Bogle H'a'.*

THIS was the traditional name in our younger years given to that house with turnpike stair, the topmost of the row on the south side of St. John Street, and now belonging to the Government.

A passing glance fails to detect any features or evidence of antiquity or right to the claim of being the residence of James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell, the wealthiest and "most powerful nobleman (because of his immense estates) of the south of Scotland."

Closer examination discloses several parts of a superior ornamental architecture, foreign to a house of so plain an

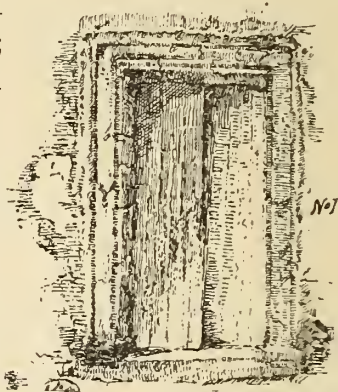
* "Le Boghal" appears in the oldest extant Protocol Book of Stirling, and was no doubt the town residence of the Laird of Boghall, often contracted in old writings into "Bogle." On the demolition of the building, its name seems to have been transferred to the Laird of Auchinbowie's lodging in its vicinity, and the real meaning of "Bogle" having been forgotten, the name was assumed to be an abbreviation of "Bothwell," which is never found so contracted.

exterior and with so little pretensions.

These are (1) the east gable, finely stepped (No. 4), the coping of the four steps forming either side of the chimney being filleted; (2) the two ornamental



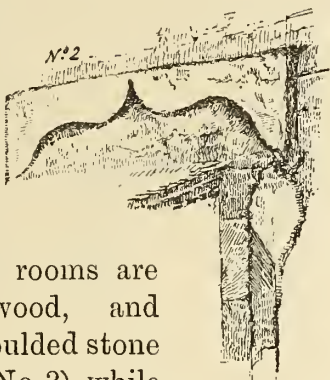
club corbels on each side of the west gable (No. 5); (3) the partly groined and partly barrelled vault underneath; (4) the moulded doorway of the turnpike (No. 1) and the steps of the stair and splayed windows of the house; and last, and most important as fixing an early date for its erection, the sculpture on a large stone forming either the





Boltonellia

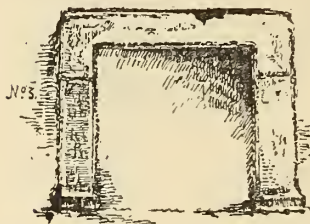
lintel of a doorway or the pediment over a coat of arms in the west wall of the back court, now concealed by a recent outhouse erection (No. 2).*



The principal rooms are panelled in wood, and have slightly moulded stone chimney pieces (No. 3), while a stone bracket projecting from the kitchen wall indicates an oak beam support for the ceiling. It seems as if the west end had been rebuilt, that gable being

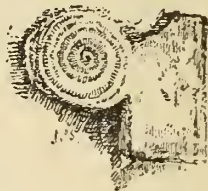
* The late Dr. Rogers, in his interesting work, "A Week at Bridge of Allan" (1853), says, "An inscribed coat of arms, recently revealed on one of the exterior walls, is said to be that of the noble founder." It is unfortunate that the rev. Dr. does not give the arms, but as the history of the house is pretty clear, they are probably the saltire of the Bruce. In a note Dr. Rogers mentions that a lady in Broad Street possessed a curiously-painted oak tablet, on which seemed to be represented some of the leading scenes in the popular allegory of "The Pilgrim's Progress," which in the course of repairs was found in the building. The house had been previously shut up, the reputation attaching to it being that of a haunt of the pestilence. We have here a reason for the popular appellation of "Bogle Ha'."

imperfect, and some fifty years ago a ruined wall of one storey in height, with vaults underneath, existed on the west



side. The fore-said door lintel or pediment of coat of arms, formed of a single stone about 5 feet by 2 feet, is exactly similar to an ex-

ample of a doorway given of the change from the Gothic to the early Renaissance, a period which is said by S. S. Beales, in the "Architectural Guide," to have endured in this country only until the middle of the sixteenth century.



It is in recollection, also, that Dr. Galbraith, in his "Reminiscences," speaks of the ancient Gate Arch, presently inserted in the High School building, as originally having formed a gateway in a wall adjoining this building, and having been removed thence some half a century

previously to the Water House, which strengthens the importance and antiquity claimed for the ludging, and would fix the date of its erection about the middle of the sixteenth century.

History tells us that James Hepburn was born in 1526, and succeeded to the title of Earl of Bothwell, &c., and to "ane great inheritance" in 1566. He was previously, in 1561, a Privy Councillor, and one of the noblemen deputed to convey Queen Mary from France to Scotland, and his death, after a notorious career, took place in Malmo Castle in 1596. His attendance during the Court, then holden in Stirling Castle, necessitated, no doubt, a residence in Stirling, but there is no allusion in any of the Burgh Records to his residence, far less to his ownership, of a property in Stirling. If this house had been actually the residence of the Earl of Bothwell, it would have afforded a startling illustration of the old proverb, "The nearer the church, the farther from God," as this ludging is actually under the shadow of the

Parish Church, and the Earl of Bothwell then bore the character of the most godless nobleman in Scotland. He appears in the Great Charter of Mary, Queen of Scots (then a widow), to the Town, of the Church temporalities, as a witness to Mary's signature, being designed as "our beloved and familiar Councillor, James, Earl of Bothwell, Lord Hailes, Crichton and Liddesdale, Great Admiral of our Kingdom." This has an historical interest from the date of the Charter being 15th April, 1567, and Lord Darnley's murder, of which Bothwell then stood accused, having occurred on the 6th February preceding. His death is erroneously said to have taken place in Denmark. Malmo is in Sweden. The cell in which he was confined is shown by the authorities of Malmo Castle, a convict prison at the time of our visit.

The ludging, however, seems to correspond to the description of that of John de Bruis of Auchenbowie, a property shown to have been in this locality. In 1592, in a contract between the Town Council, for

the poor of the Hospital, and James Menteith of Randifurd, of the "South Brae," which is the part of the Back Walk between the Earl of Mar's Haining and the High School, the Brae's boundary on the north side is described as "the dyke of the kirkyard, the back tenement and yard dyke of Robert Auchmoutie, John Bruce of Auchenbowie, Adam Spittal of Blairlogie, and so forth, as the common dyke of the said burgh passes to the Greyfriars dyke."

Robert Auchmoutie's tenements were purchased and taken down by Cowane's Hospital, and form the site of the present hospital and bowling green.

Robert the Brus of Carnock, John's ancestor, was, in January, 1520, pledge for "Robert Bruce of Archt entered into the freedom of burgesry and gild by reason of his father."

A Robert the Bruis appears to have been appointed in 1504, along with George Crichton (evidently a connection) and other burgesses, as commissioners to pursue the Abbot and Convent of

Cambuskenneth before the Lords as to the town's fishings; and again, in 1509, he and the said George Crichton are Commissioners for the town to pursue Alexander Elphinstone as to the fishings.

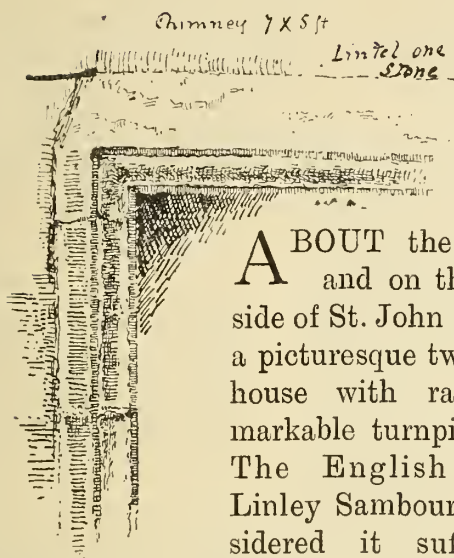
In 1520, Robert Brus of Auchenbowy* appears as one of the cautioners for payment of the dowry of a daughter of George Crichton's of "acht score of merkis." In 1521, "Robert the Bruce" appears as a Bailie when Alexander Forrester is Provost. In October, 1556, he is Provost, and protests if he has neglected his duties when in office, "for time and place to uptak the samyn."

The ludging in St. John Street, evidently the Brus' town house, likely owes its erection to Robert when Bailie about 1520.

The parts of architecture presently existing may help future inquirers in more thoroughly investigating the ownership.

* Robert Bruce, first of Auchinbowy, and said to be fifth son of Alexander Bruce of Airth, who was a descendant of King Robert the Bruce, was a merchant of Stirling, and purchased Auchinbowy from Sir Alexander Cunningham in 1506. A later Robert Bruce of Auchinbowy was admitted a burgess of Stirling in 1681 as a member of the suite of His Royal Highness, James, Duke of Albany and York, afterwards James VII.

Old Fleshers' Tavern.



ABOUT the middle, and on the south side of St. John Street, is a picturesque two-storey house with rather remarkable turnpike stair. The English artist, Linley Sambourne, considered it sufficiently interesting to include it in his sketch book of a Highland tour, published some years ago. This house is alleged to have been the Earl of Linlithgow's Ludging.

The present front to the house has, from its slim construction, been added to

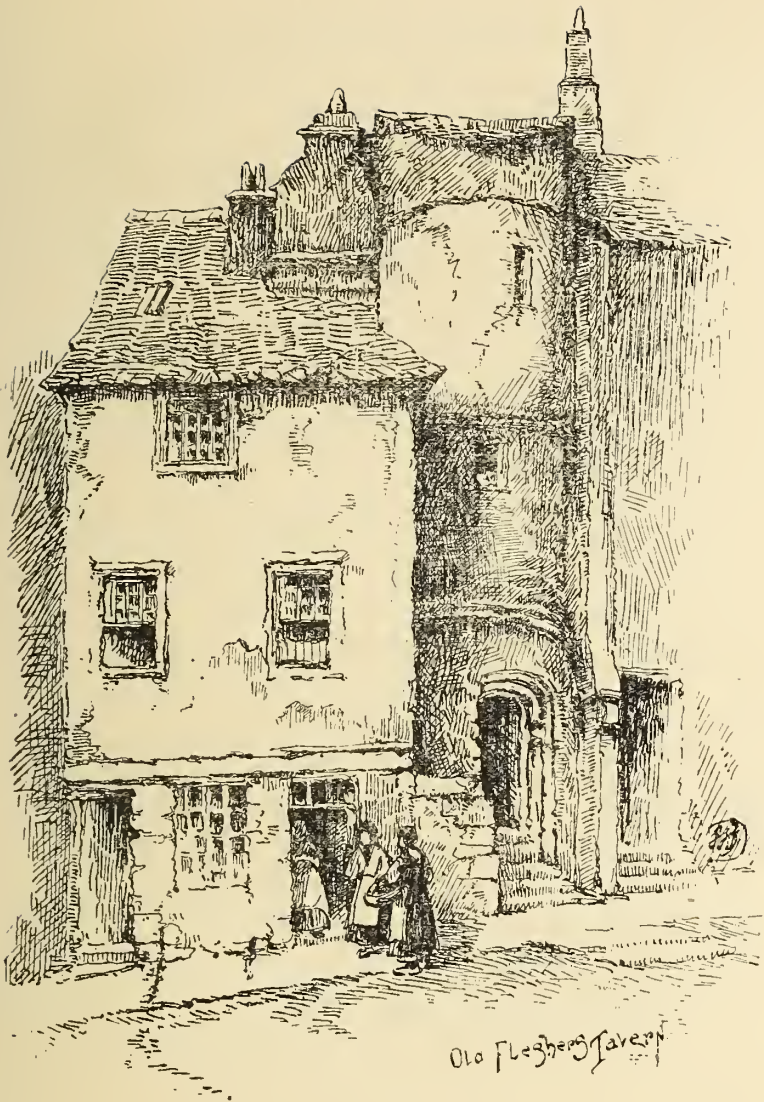
the original house, and projects about 10 feet into the street. The building consists of two floors, with one large apartment of 15 ft. by 12 ft. on each floor, both entering directly off the turnpike stair. The apartment on the first floor, being the kitchen, has a finely-moulded stone chimney piece, 7 ft. by 5 ft., the lintel being one immense stone. The kitchen walls have four corbels sustaining the



CORBEL.

oak beams of the ceiling, and a to-fall, or back wing, with corbie-stepped gable, extends to the back court. The only light

to this chamber is a small back window. This window seems to have been originally a back door to the court, the projections for the stair for landing, and remains of the steps to it, being visible in the back wall, and what is presently the door to the back wing has been the window. Probably there existed originally no entrance from the street by the present close to the court. The upper chamber



is exactly of the same dimensions and with the same four corbel projections. The walls of the whole building are four feet thick, of immense stones, and all is of the most solid construction. The roof of this and the tower are modern. The tower or turret has a deep moulding, and probably the roof was originally cone-shaped. The sketch shows heavy mouldings round the tower, and there has been a strong door hung on the entrance, but the doorway is plain, although the steps show an ancient moulding. The underground building is not vaulted. The owner assured us that the old woodwork was of oak. It must originally have presented the appearance of a fortress. No date or inscription is visible, but the present owner a few years ago, in blasting the walls of the kitchen (it required gunpowder to make an impression) to improve the window light, says one of the four corbels was displaced, having the single letter A covering its whole surface; and the removal of the plaster showed an old painted wall of a yellow colour. The

corbel stone, he said, was through the entire thickness of the wall, and probably some one of the other three corbels, the surfaces of which are covered up, may have some similar mark which could throw more light on the founder of the building. It is hardly worthy of notice that in the centre of what must have been the original front, but is now the south wall of the room, in the first flat, is a stone tablet with a deep border, where a coat of arms or inscription would naturally be expected. This tablet was covered up by a very old oil-coloured daub on a rotting canvas representing roughly the execution of Queen Mary. The canvas on pressure did not indicate any marking underneath, and the owner said the deep border was of cement, although it looked like stone.

Alexander Livingstone, first Earl of Linlithgow, was elected by James VI. as custodier, and entrusted with the education of his daughter, Princess Elizabeth, when he proceeded in 1603 to take

possession of the English Crown, and, in consequence of the Earl's wife being a bigoted Catholic, the risk of the contamination of the religious education of the Princess was then common comment.

In 1622, Alexander, Earl of Linlithgow, is "freely and lovingly admitted to the liberty and freedom of a burgess and guild brother" of the Burgh of Stirling, and this may have been the family town house occupied by the Earl while the Court was in Stirling Castle. By disposition, dated 20th and 29th July, and recorded 25th December, 1656, "ane noble and potent Earl, James, Earl of Callander, Lord Almond, and Alexander Livingstone, only son to the deceased Earl of Linlithgow," dispone to Robert Gib, merchant burgess of Stirling, "that ludging or tenement (laitlie waist and now built) sometime pertaining to the Earl of Linlithgow, lying within the said Burgh in the Raw called the Back Raw, betwixt the ludging and yaird lately pertaining to

Lord Elphinston, now to William Meiklejohn,* on the east, the ludging and yaird sometime pertaining to D. Drummond, and now to Andrew Baird, upon the west, the town's wall upon the south, and the street of the Back Raw on the north," and sasine is given to Gib on 5th July, 1660, "to said ludging, with the close, yaird, well, and pertinents thereof." From the Town's Records, of date 26th January, 1659, it appears that Robert Gib gets sanction from the Town Council for "a turnpike stair by building on the north $2\frac{1}{4}$ ells in length by $2\frac{3}{4}$ ells in breadth alongside of the wall, Robert not to build any fore stair or stone work on the north side of the wall except an open fore stair betwixt the fore stair belonging to William Meiklejohn and the east side of foresaid turnpike."

While it is evident that Gib, betwixt the date of his disposition in 1656 and his infetment in 1660, had repaired

* This William Meiklejohn was precentor in the Parish Church.

and rebuilt part of the house and the turnpike, much of the original and ancient parts of the building must have remained, as, on the assumption that this is the building in question, the appearance of these ancient parts points to a much earlier period than 1659, and the initial stone referred to was displaced from a position of more than a storey in height. It is impossible to reconcile the character and age of this building, in its strength of walls and limited accommodation, with the theory of its being built for the private residence of a burgess. The structure points to an earlier period, probably the middle of the sixteenth century.

The description, as we take it from the title deeds shown to us, mentions that it belonged about 1700 to William Ker, flesher, thereafter to the incorporation of skinners, thereafter to William Stevenson, flesher, and in 1758 was held by Alexander Hamilton of Claycroft, when the street is called

the Fleshmarket Street or Back Row.* The house was at one time a rather famous tavern called the "Fleshers' Tavern."

A description in a disposition of a house in this vicinity which belonged anciently to a John Robeson, flesher, bounding a tenement of Lord Elphinston's on the east, and sold in 1758 to Alex. Stewart, flesher, then to Duncan Paterson, Provost, seems to come nearer the locality of this house. It may be remarked that Lord Elphinston's two houses, which adjoined each other, and the Earl of Linlithgow's house, acquired as above, were all held in 1711 by James Gib, son

* From the papers in a process of suspension and liberation against the Incorporation of Fleshers in 1824, it appears that prior to 1782, when the fleshmarket and slaughter-house were built, there were six or seven wooden sheds, called "stocks," extending down the middle of the Bakraw, where the freemen fleshers slaughtered and sold their meat. In the winter some of these fleshers killed at their own doors on the south side of the street under the wooden foreshot of the houses. The country fleshers stood in the open street, along the side of the houses on the north side, where they put up their flakes on the market day, these flakes being taken down and put in some of the public-houses when the market was over.

of the said Robert Gib. In 1652, a James Gib kept an alehouse and supplied the Magistrates and English officers (Cromwell's or Monk's) with ale.

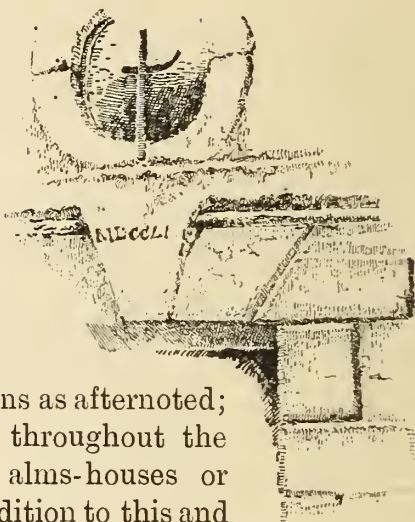
Was this ludging erected by a person of distinction, or by an incorporation for a public purpose? Some additional light is required, as the evidence of identification is unsatisfactory.*

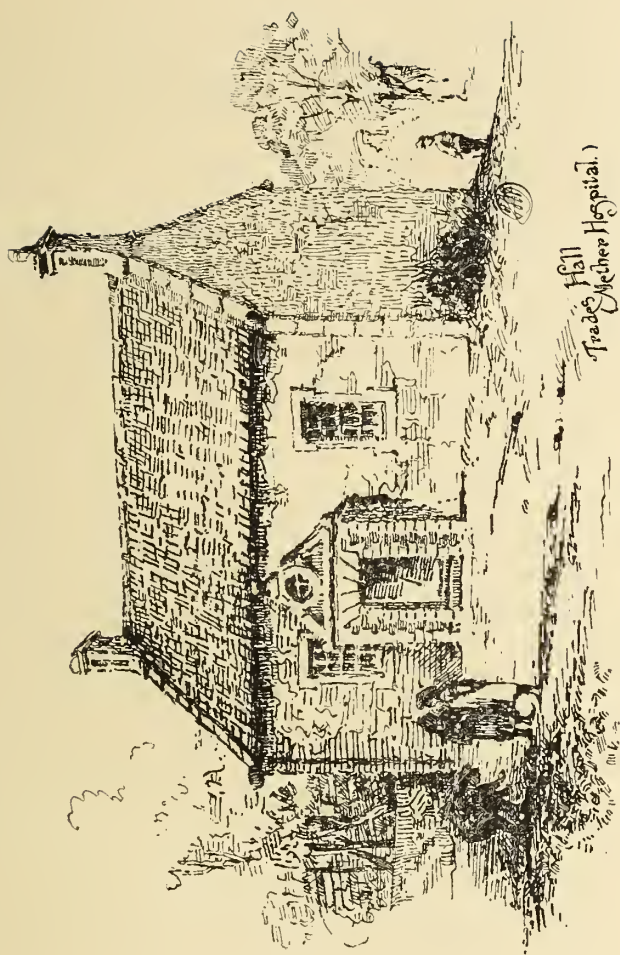
*It is proved by the description of properties in this locality in various sasines, that the Earl of Linlithgow's Ludging was the sixth from the top of the street, counting from Bruce of Auchenbowie's, now called Bogle Ha'. This would make it immediately adjoin the Military Prison on the east, and it is placed here by the late Dr. Rogers in "A Week at Bridge of Allan" (1853), p. 105, where he says :—"A large building adjoining the prison entrance on the east was the Ludging of the Earl of Linlithgow. To the height of three storeys it is still entire, and in its modernized condition affords accommodation to several families. A large apartment on the third floor had been illuminated in the roof like the ceilings of the old cathedral chancels; a circumstance which probably indicates that it had formed a private chapel. A massive old oak table is still retained in the chamber." This interesting Ludging was taken down in 1859, when the Erskine Monument was erected.

Spittall's, or Nether Hospital.

THE only buildings now representing this Hospital are a house in Spittal Street (No. 82) and the Trades' Hall, with their inscriptions as afternoted; but there were throughout the town various alms-houses or hospitals in addition to this and the Over, or Cowane's Hospital. The earliest mention of these charitable institutions in the printed Burgh Records is 1328.

With reference to the Spittal Street house, we find that on 6th May, 1521, "Sir James Shaw of Salky, Knight,





renounces his right to ane tenement pertaining to Thomas Young betwixt the land and tenement of umquhile Sir James Darrow on the west, the King's hie gait on the north, and the gait called the Back Raw on the south, in favour of Robert Spittal, servant to the Queen's Grace, except payment of 10s of annual by the year."

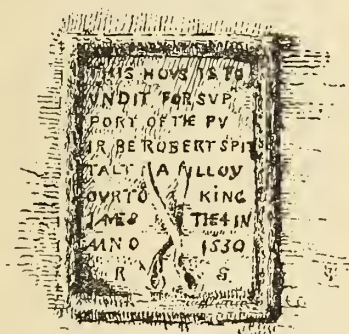
Robert Spittal seems to have been challenged for encroachment on the property of his neighbour, who had "murmured him," as on 3rd June, 1527, he appears protesting "and alleges and offers to prove with the spouse of umquhile Gilbert Johenson and Jonet his dochter that he came to Gilbert's deathbed and said to him in this mainer :—' Gudeman, it is said that ye murmur me sayand I have doune ye gret wrangis in the begin on your ground,' and that the said Gilbert answered, 'I sa na thing of ye bot ye are ane gud nebour.'"

The titles of a Baker Street house immediately behind this property, give the southern boundary in 1709 as the

tenement belonging to the Nether Hospital, and in the Old Plan of Stirling of 1700, annexed to the printed Burgh Records this house is marked as "Spittall's Hospital," but the older house, or Nether Hospital, was evidently in the gardens of Irvine Place, marked in the same plan as Nether Hospital lands. In 1702 the Hospital Masters report an agreement with Maria Johnston for one year's possession of "Friars House and yaird," at the old rate of £80 Scots, which scarcely applies to this house, but apparently to a remnant of the Franciscan Friars' Monastery originally in this yard, also marked on said plan. On 29th May, 1703, the Dean of Guild has authority to get masons to repair the "back wall of the alms-house within the Friars' yard." On 4th September, 1712, "the Council, as Patrons of Cowane's Hospital, considering the insufficiency of the seven trades, their meeting house, and that the trades have now purchased a more convenient house for their meeting, therefor, and for enabling the trades to pay the

same, they appoint the Masters of Spittall's Hospital to pay 500 merks of the pryce of the said new purchase, and which new purchase is to bear the old inscription conform to the old meeting house or the lyke."

The Spittal Street house, the original appearance of which, by the removal of the turnpike and dormer windows, has been completely changed within recent years, bears an old inscription with date 1530. The appearance of this stone and



quaint lettering point to that period, and if this be the inscription referring to the "new purchase," it must have been

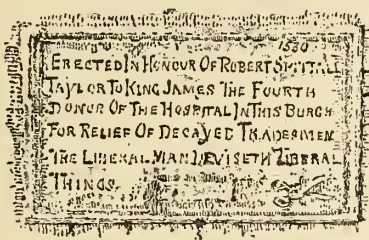
transferred from the old meeting-house, wherever that was situated, but it is open to doubt if this is the Trades' new meeting-house at all.* But what other explanation is available as to the Patrons' order? A sketch of this inscribed stone and also of the new tablet is given.

The Masters of Spittal's Hospital also used the mansion of the Earl of Stirling, called Argyll's Lodging, as an hospital during the period of their ownership as adjudgers for debt due to the Hospital by the then deceased Earl of Stirling, and on the sale of this mansion to the Earl of Argyll for £1000, the amount of the Hospital's mortgage, in September, 1665, the Patrons reserved therefrom the "plenishing the Masters put into the house for the accommodation of the poor."

* This new meeting house is supposed to have been the house in Baker Street known as "Lawrie's Turnpike." The inscription may have been placed originally on the Nether Hospital on the Little Gowane Hills (now Irvine Place), which was erected during Robert Spittal's lifetime; and on the sale of the Hospital in 1751, the old inscribed stone was probably inserted for safe-keeping in the wall of the Spittal Street house, which at that time belonged to Spittal's Hospital.

Such was the base use to which this magnificent mansion, then in its original condition, had been subjected.

The Trades' Hall also bears an inscription claiming to be erected in honour of



Spittal's Hospital

Robert Spittal. It was built, as the key-stone of the porch doorway shows, in 1751, and is a one-storey house, superiorly built for its period, forming a hall of 36 ft. by 25 ft. The porch is of ancient rustic work, the lintel being one immense stone, and the finishing of window jambs and lintels is in fine masonry. The hall contains a sculptured stone chimneypiece of the period, 8 ft. by 5½ ft., and a marble tablet with inscription. The west outer wall bears the tablet and inscription as

shown in the sketch, but otherwise the building has no interest, and certainly none of an historical character.

The Church Almshouse, or "Chaplenarie," as it is anciently named, existing in 1540, was at the head of St. John Street, and was then subject to an annual rent of 2s. to St. Michael's Altar. It seems originally to have belonged to the town, but had been ceded to the Church, for we find on 21st March, 1596, Walter Cowane (uncle of John Cowane, founder of Cowane's Hospital) appointed to treat with William Schaw, Master of Works for Scotland (who appears in the list of Masters of Works for Scotland in the report of the Society of Antiquaries for last year, as having been appointed in 1592, and died in 1602), for the Almshouse, and on 4th December following, Robert Alexander is appointed on a like errand to him, and to obtain his right thereof "gif it in him lyes."

The town seems to have got possession of it, but it was in a ruinous state, and on 12th March, 1604, Sir William Edmond,

Colonel of the Scots Regiment in Flanders, "in praise of God for His manifold divine preservation in his many perils, having determined to repair the foresaid Almhouse, now ruinous and fallen down, for maintenance of poor," bestows on it certain alms, or annual rents. "Archibald Allane, Chaplain or Prebendary of the Chaplenarie called the Almshouse or Hospital for the admission, lodging, and sustaining therein of the poor, lying in the South gait on east side of Parish Church near to the cemetery, with the consent of Sir John Schaw of Arngomerie, patron," by a new grant dated 28th February and 1st May, 1610, conveyed to the Town Council the said Almshouse, &c., "for the admission, ludging, and sustaining therein of Christ's puir and sick." In the Town's Great Charter of 1641, this gift was referred to, but the clause was apparently afterwards deleted, and the reference states that the foresaid Hospital is "now converted for want of maintenance in ane minister's manse."

In 1706 a concave vent is ordered to be put in the manse. Becoming ruinous in 1726, the building was extensively repaired, and Robert Henderson, mason, on his admission as a burgess, is exempt from his fee, being "admitted gratuitously for drawing ane handsome draft of the alterations of the First Minister's Manse."

In February, 1746, the injury this and other houses in Stirling had sustained during the occupation by the Highlanders under Prince Charlie, in the previous month, occasioned an order for inspection *inter alia* of the condition of the manse, "greatly damaged by the rebels." It was taken down in 1824.

The Hospital of St. James the Apostle, situated in the orchard of that name, now occupied by the Poor's House, and near to the Old Brig Mill, was also an alms-house. It was originally granted by King Robert on 10th March, 1403, to the Canons of Cambuskenneth, serving God there, John Palmer's life-rent being reserved. On the 23rd February, 1523, the Town Council agreed to support Sir

Robert Christison, chaplain of Saint James Chapel, master of their grammar school in the plea in defence of said chapel and the rights thereof. The minute does not say who challenged Sir Robert's rights. The Chapel must have been destroyed at the Reformation, as a resolution of the Town Council dated 2nd November, 1562, directs all stones of St. James' Chapel to be brought "to the utility and profit of the common work."

These almshouses, a necessity in the absence of poorhouses, shared equally with the church the charity of the benevolent. The Magistrates, so early as May, 1581, conveyed the Rude Braes "as liberal almous for the puir persons within the Hospital of said burgh."

On 7th September, 1562, John Forrester being fined a silver piece for overcharging his wine, the Magistrates ordered £5 (Scots) to be taken off the silver piece, and the same to be applied for the poor of the Hospital to make them clothes and gowns therewith. Again, in 1652, the Town Council, "considering

that certain puir bairns greeting and crying nichtlye under stairs for falt of ludging, has granted that olkie ane laid of coals be laid into the almshouse during the winter tyme."

In 1709 the Masters were appointed to furnish clothes to the weekly pensioners of coats and breeches not to exceed £60 (Scots) in all, and a pew in the loft of the Parish Church was allotted to the pensioners of the Over and Nether Hospitals.



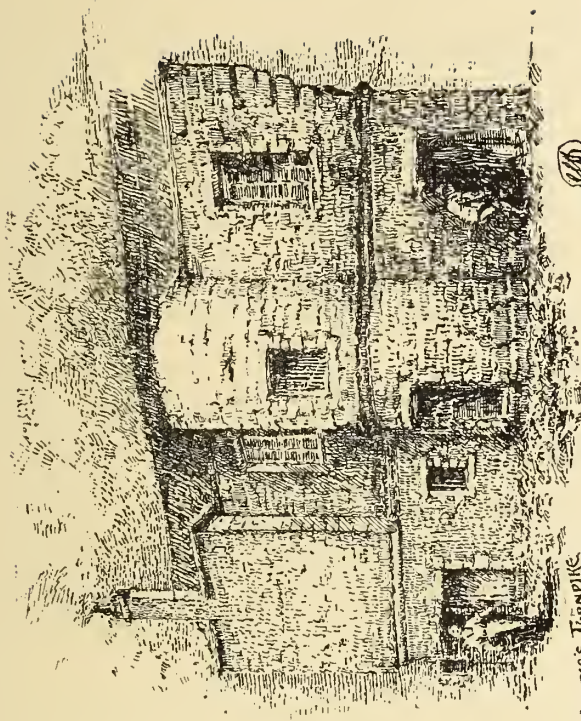
Lawrie's Turnpike, Baker Street.

IN the close on the north side of Baker Street, immediately below the Boys' Industrial School opening, anciently known as Bell's Close, are the remains of a fine old building having a tower and square jutting gable fronting the close, but some yards from the street. It is one of a series of three similarly-designed lodgings of turret or turnpike and square fronting gables, the others being Forrester of Logie's House in Broad Street, already described, and the remains of an old building in a close at the foot of Broad Street on the south side of what is called Darnley's House. The courses of free-stone are 3 feet by 1 foot, and the walls (only the eastern one is intact) 3 feet thick. A deep moulding runs round the building and tower. The original windows have been splayed, and the

doorway jambs and lintels of the tower moulded, and this and the continuing building to Baker Street are both vaulted. It is the only lodging of a superior character among the ancient buildings now existing in Baker Street.

We learn that a building existed in this locality which ultimately became the property of the town, and is referred to in the Burgh Records as "Lawrie's Turnpike." In an inventory of the town's property taken in 1652, immediately following the description of the town's properties in Bell's Close, is entered "the house callit Lawrie's turnpyke, now pertainyng to John Henrie, taylour, and of before to Andrew Lowrie, merchand, 9 shs." In 1652, the land of William Esplin, cutler, is described as adjacent to "Lawrie's Turnpike." Lawrie's Turnpike is found to be in the possession of Walter Cowan, maltman, and Isabella Buchan his wife, in 1677.

On 23rd April, 1681, the Cordiners' Shoemarket was appointed to be held



1881

LAWRENCE
DANES

between Denovan's House* and "Lawrie's Turnpike." A few months later the Cordiners complain of lack of custom, and request the Council to allow them to go back to their old stance in High Street. In 1683, the Town Council, in granting the Cordiners' application to return to their former place, appoint the timber market to be held in the Baxter Wynd between Bell's Close and the tenement pertaining to Walter Cowan, being no doubt Lawrie's Turnpike.

In January, 1746, on the alarm of the approach of the rebels, a charge appears in the treasurer's accounts for "18 men casting up a trench in James Chalmer's yaird and building up Lawrie's Turnpike Close in the Baxter's Wynd, for drink, £1 10s." It also appears that a messenger was sent the previous day to Edinburgh

* David Forrester of Denovan's house was undoubtedly to the east of Bell's Close, and there would have been very little room for a market to be held between it and the house Mr. Fleming identifies as Lawrie's Turnpike. This is one reason for supposing that Lawrie's Turnpike was a little further down the street, and the sasines seem to confirm the supposition, but there is not as yet sufficient information available to settle the point.

“to get some military to this toun,” and these operations were to make effective the north defences.

The remains of this house show a fine specimen of the ancient burgess lodgings of the beginning, or probably the middle, of the seventeenth century, and is now likely to be preserved by the present owners, the Free North Church, for many years to come.



The Town's Mills.

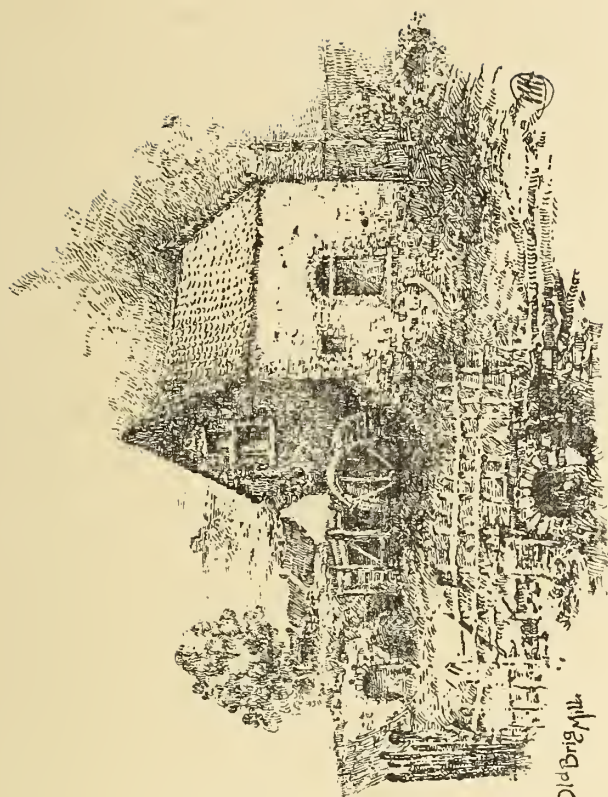
OUR sketch shows the Brig Mill, with part of a ruin which includes an arch as it existed in 1850, and the remains of the vault under the old guard-house at the Bridge.

This mill and the Burrows Mill belonged originally to the Preaching or Dominican Friars of Stirling, whose monastery, or house, was situated in the vicinity of the present Post Office, and who held at the time of the Reformation, in addition thereto, lands, annual rents, and other property which formed their endowments. These extensive and valuable possessions, by the cupidity of the Friars and prebendaries, when the old religion and its rights were abolished, were disposed of and the prices appropriated to their private purposes, a practice which was general in Scotland, purchasers being not found

wanting unscrupulous enough to enter into collusion with the Friars for acquiring these Church properties.

Following the example of other Church dignitaries, the then Prior, Andrew Makneill, in 1560, sold the whole Church lands and endowments, and specially "the mill of said Friars, called the Burrows Mill, and also another mill of said Friars lying there, called the Brig Mill," to Alexander Erskine of Cangnoir, brother-german of John, Lord Erskine, and Margaret Home, his spouse. The greedy and unscrupulous Cangnoir, in order to make his and his wife's investiture in this acquisition complete, obtained from Francis and Mary a precept confirming the said conveyance, and thus stood vested, not only in the Friars lands and endowments, but also in the two mills and right to the multures payable by the burgesses astricted thereto.

These seizures and sales of Church property became scandalous, and the Town Council and Magistrates were



Old Brig Mills

naturally irritated at the loss of the Town's Mills. On 15th December, 1561, a suggestion is recorded by James Stirling of Keir, then Provost, "anent obtaining the Burgh Mills with the crofts, yairds, and lands to the common gude for sic reasonable causes to be done to the Quenis grace plessour, and the hail Council thought the same expedient and tak upon hand therefore the bigging of the park dyke with such other things as may maist easily be convenit." Accordingly, on the representation of the Deputies of the Town to the Queen, so long resident in Stirling, whether the said dyke was built or the other things "maist easily convenit" were executed or not, Mary Queen of Scots, by herself, Darnley, her husband, having been murdered the previous February, on 15th April, 1567, granted to the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Stirling, "all lands, tenements, houses, buildings, chapels, churches, yards, annual rents, fruits, and others whatsoever which belonged to the Dominican or Preaching Friars and

Minorites or Franciscans." The charter proceeds: "Besides, considering how dishonestly a number of the said prebendaries, chaplains, and friars have since the change of religion, disposed, alienated, and given away into the hands of certain private parties the lands, annual rents, and emoluments previously mortified, and also many lieges have claimed to themselves by briefes of our chancery the right to certain lands mortified by their ancestors to the Church, which has happened partly by negligence of the officers of our Burgh and partly through collusion of the prebendaries, chaplains, and friars, we RESCIND and ANNUL all and sundry such alienations, dispositions, and sasines, &c.," and "unite and incorporate all such lands, &c., into one body, to be called our Foundation of the Ministry and Hospitality of Stirling." One sasine is appointed to be taken by the Magistrates at the Tolbooth of Stirling in their favour for the whole lands, endowments, &c.

We have quoted these respective and conflicting grants and dispositions to the

same properties thus fully, to explain the reasons of the after-continued litigation between the town and Cangnoir as to the ownership or right to the mills, a most valuable asset of the Friars preachers. In Erskine of Cangnoir's conveyance it will be noted that the two mills are *specially* described, and the sasine of him and his spouse therein, with Francis and Mary's confirmation as the over superior thereof, completed the investiture in their persons absolutely.

Considerable litigation having gone on, and many ridings to Edinburgh by the Town Clerk "in pursuit of the mills," the bitterness of the feud between the Earl and the Town Council reveals itself in what is somewhat like an oath taken by them and recorded in the Town Council Records of 24th February, 1561, where "the Town Council has condescended to spend thair common gude upon the defense of the Borrow Mills and landis againis Alexander Erskine of Cangloir and other whatsomever personis that will pursue the samyn, and in case of inlaik of

thair common gude, to spend of thair *owin* geir accordingly as tyme sall require, and to that effect to be taxt with avis of the counsall gif need beis."

This was followed by the proposition of Provost Stirling of Keir, and the Charter of Queen Mary referred to.

The significance has been hitherto overlooked of the application of the inscriptions on the Earl of Mar's lodging erected during these contentions with the town, he being at that time the best-hated nobleman in Stirling. The inscriptions* may refer to the reflections then made against the family for his brother's scandalous appropriation of the Town Mills, the preferable right of the town, and no doubt the then current town question, and not

* 1.

THE · MOIR · I · STAND · ON · OPPIN · HITHT
MY · FAVLTIS · MOIR · SVBIECT · AR · TO · SITHT.

2.

I · PRAY · AL · LVIKARIS · ON · THIS · LVGING
VITH · GENTIL · E · TO · GIF · THAIR · IVGING.

3.

ESSPY · SPEIK · FVRTH · AND · SPAIR · NOTHT
CONSIDDIR · VEIL · I · CAIR · NOTHT.

to his own alleged desecration in erecting his lodging with the stones of Cambuskenneth Abbey. It is notorious that so little respect was paid to the Popish institutions at the date of the Reformation, that not only were the ecclesiastical buildings and church property demolished or put to the basest of uses, but many ecclesiastical buildings formed a free quarry, used by the community at large without scruple, for building their cottages and fences.

Returning to the question of the mills, this kind of property forms an exception, and does not pass as a *pertinent*, like houses and other buildings erected upon land, in the conveyance of the lands upon which they may be built; but is a separate property, and in consequence of the right of thirlage attached thereto, requires a separate conveyance by *special* description and separate sasine. While the Royal Charter's rescision and declaration of nullity of the disposition by the Friars preachers to Cangnoir might be effectual to cancel the conveyance of the two mills, the

Queen's conveyance to the town of the Friars' property wants not only the separate conveyance by *special* description required to make it pass the mills, but it actually does not mention the mills at all. Hence, after years of litigation "for the defense and pursuit of the mills," with Cangnoir; the Provost, with others, are deputed "to pass to Thomas Erskine of Gogar (Cangnoir's successor), and treat with him concerning his reputed right to the mills and lands within this burgh upon conditions as shall be set down to them."

This attempt to settle does not seem to have been successful, and on 25th August, 1652, nearly a century after the seizure of the mills, the Town Council agree to buy from Maister Leslie's brother, who had acquired Lord Erskine's rights, his mills and lands, at 16,000 merks.

In this quarrel of disputed ownership, the mills and buildings seem to have been neglected, and to have fallen into ruins, as in the same year the Brig Mill was

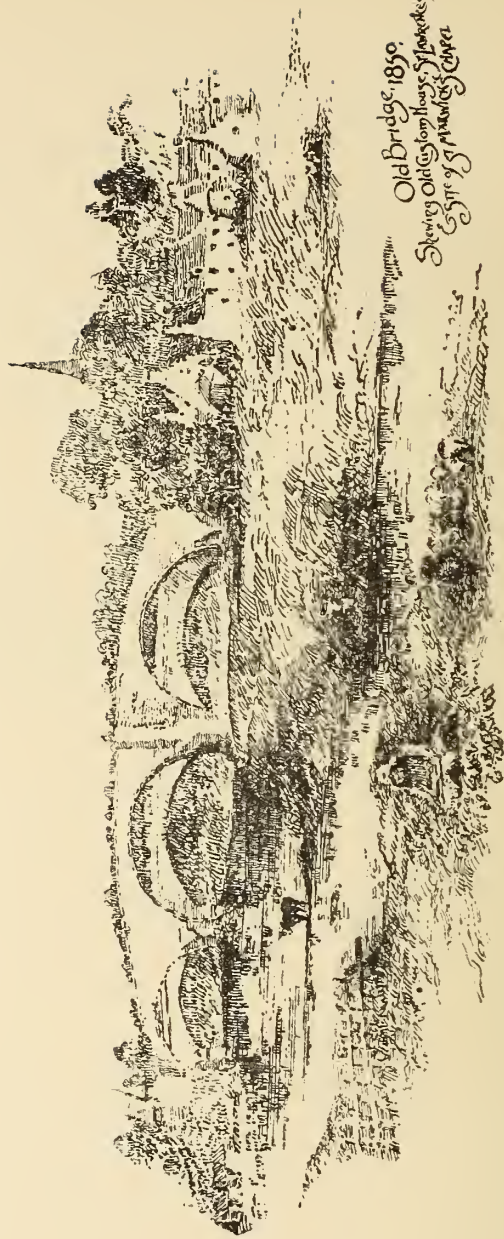
rebuilt by the town. In 1655, the dam of this mill required to be recast, for which £21 12s is charged in the Treasurer's account. On 27th March, 1654, the Town Council executed an Act of thirl and astriction "of the haill neighbours and inhabitants of this burgh, present and to come, to the common mills, callit the Bridge and Burrow Milns, to grind all their malt to be brewn by them, and pay multure therefor, viz.:—for ilk boll twa heapit capfuls, and for each boll spoilt in the grinding one third pairt of the price, and if the same quantity not returned when ground to be hadden as theft, and restore four-fold what more than their due. The miller sall grind what comes first without respect of persons, that the puir may not be wrangit or frustrate of his maskyne." The miller is also bound to deliver the malt made within a mile of the mill.

The mill shown on the sketch (taken by us in 1850) is the old mill erected in 1652, and the ruined arch on the left hand side of the sketch may be the remains

of the original mill erected by the Friars preachers.

The vault of the old guard-house shown on the right hand side, was built in September, 1746, to replace a more ancient guard-house, then declared to be "in great disrepair and uninhabitable," and the Treasurer was appointed to cause build a new "house at the west end of the Bridge kiln of 16 feet in length within the walls, covered with slates, and that without delay." A measurement I recently took of the foundations shows the building to have been about 24 feet *outside* the walls, which would make these four feet thick.





Old Bridge, 1850.
Showing Old St. John's Church,
St. John's, Cape.

The Old Bridge of Stirling.

OUR sketch, taken in 1850, shows the Old Bridge Custom House, now removed, the site of St. Marrock's Chapel being near to the small gabled house on the extreme right, and St. Lawrence Croft, now called Winchelhaugh,* being the field in front of it. A house in the vicinity of the alleged site of the Chapel, if not on the site itself, contains several stones likely to have come from the ruins, and there are several very large stones on the garden ground, apparently foundations

* Winchelhaugh was the croft of St. Roche, and extended to six acres. St. Lawrence Croft was the Ferry Croft, and lay to the south of Winchelhaugh, its southern boundary being "the calsay leading to the Brig," and its eastern boundary the two rigs of St. James the Apostle. The chapels of St. Roche and St. Marrock must have been quite close to each other, and it is not improbable that the old building referred to by Mr. Fleming marks the site of the former, St. Marrock's being nearer to the bridge end. "St. Marrock" may be a corruption of St. Mark, or a survival of St. Moroc or Maworrock, the alleged patron saint of Lecropt.

of a building other than an ordinary dwelling. As this house has its gables due east and west, it is not unlikely that it is built upon the old walls, and on the lines of the religious house. No doubt the Chapel was a very small erection.

The Bridge suffered at the time of the rebellion in 1745, and the southmost arch was in December of that year blown up by Major-General Blackney, notwithstanding a vigorous protest made by the Magistrates to Captain Grozart, engaged in the destruction in December, which is recorded in their books. The Town Council thereupon instituted a ferry to supply the interrupted communication, and made a table of fares for passengers, horses, &c., appointing the tacksman who collected the customs to officiate as ferryman. This continued until March, 1749, when the Bridge arch being completed by the Government to the satisfaction of the Town Council, the gate at the north end was ordered to be widened, as many accidents had occurred to carted goods. In May, 1751, the iron gate was ordered

to be sold by public roup, all further occasion for its use being apparently at an end.

The North Gate pillars seem of quite modern erection, and the South Gate pillars indicate that these had been rebuilt with the old materials, having suffered no doubt by General Blackney's operations in blowing up the south arch. No appearance of gates being hung on either side consequently now exists. In the refuge or resting place on the bridge centre, marks of iron tripods or supports (for lamps apparently) are still visible.



Curious Extracts from the Records.

As an incident of the Reformation transacted in the Parish Church in 1531, the following extract from the Burgh Records is of special interest:—

“18th May, 1531.—Day of Ascension of our Lord. In presence of a Notary and witnesses, Maister Alexander Kyd, Canon of the Chapel Royal of Stirling, being required by Sir John Clerk, Canon Regular of the Monastery of Cambuskenneth, in name and behalf of the Abbot and Convent, to execute certain letters Apostolic, as an obedient son of the Church, denounced Sir Robert Wemys, Vicar of Stirling, formerly admonished and not obedient, in the time of High Mass in the Parish Church of Stirling, on Ascension Day, as excommunicated, and on Thursday the foresaid Alexander

openly and publicly denounced the fore-said Sir Robert, Vicar in said Church, at the time of greater and High Mass, as excommunicated with aggravation, and on Lord's Day, 11th June, the said Alexander Kyd denounced the said Sir Robert so excommunicated, and with aggravation, with the use of candles, as use is, cast to the ground, and bells rung to be under double aggravation."

This was the last feeble effort of the iron rule of the Pope to assert its power and stem the powerful current then threatening its very existence, and the Vicar of Stirling stands among the first martyrs to the new religion. The Vicar, although thus cursed, was presumably never a penny the worse.

There are in the same Records notarial protests and sasines given, bearing upon the principles of the law of Scotland, the symbols in which have become obsolete in our day, but are of interest to the profession, of which we give extracts.

For instance, the Latin notarial docquet used so lately as 1845 by Notaries Public, is *verbatim et literatim* as written so far back as the year 1300, and the following examples of the different manner of holdings, law of deathbed, etc., may not be out of place as illustrations of these ancient usages, and be of benefit to law students.

Example of Nuncupative Will.—This form of verbal will or testamentary disposition of personal effects, subsequently held valid only to the extent of £100 Scots, or £8 6s 8d, is interesting on account of the party by whom and the locality where the bequest was made:—

“23rd October, 1476.—Malise, Earl of Menteith, sound in mind and body, gave and bestowed on Lady Jonet, his spouse, *for her lifetime*, a silver gilt horn, a dish called *le maser*, a silver cup, a missal book, with other things suitable for serving mass, 9 silver spoons and a silver salt fat, gilt on the top, having a beryl stone set in the middle; acquired by his own conquest

and industry, by placing a gold ring on her finger. Done in the chamber of said Earl, in the Isle of Inchtulloch, the second hour of afternoon." The same day the Earl bestowed in fee all and sundry his foresaid jewels on John Graham, his son natural, for his good deeds and services, and sasine is given of a carucate of land called the "Akyr," in the burgh or barony of Port.

On Change of Ownership, Ejection and Re-Admission of Tenants.—"31st May, 1551.—Robert Thomson, officer of James Cunningham of Polmays, past to his lands of Bogahaldy in the Barony of Polmays Cunningham, and Sherifffdom of Perth, and in presence of a notary and witnesses, cast forth Christopher Portare, Robert Gentilman, John Cairnis, Thomas Cairnis, tenants of same, with their goods and chattels, in virtue of precept from said James, as at the present term of Whitsunday, they all confessing they were duly warned beyond the bounds and

limits thereof, and from every principal house of each of them took forth a stool or chair and threw it down in token of the execution of his office, the tenants obeying in all things, as became them. Whereupon the officer asked them if they wished to hold the foresaid lands of the said James in tack for the terms to come, and to answer him yearly and termly for the fermis and other annual rents, who all, with ane voice, answered, 'We do wish,' and so he again put in and replaced the same with their gudes."

Intrusion.—"14th June, 1476.—Elizabeth Erth of Plean, spouse of the deceased Thomas Summerville of Barlaw, passing personally to the lands of Tulchil, in the Sherifffdom of Strivlin, broke and annulled a pretended sasine, or as she asserted, an intrusion taken by William Summerville, her son, and Mariota Brous, his spouse, given to them by John Brous, pretended Bailie in that part of the lands of Tulchill, &c., by 'breking of a dish,'

and on 15th June (the day following), William Summerville and Mariota Brous retaliated 'by passing to the principal messuages of lands of Sauchie Quarter, Tarbrok, Gartcabyr, and Durisdale, and broke the pretended sasine or intrusion taken by Malcolm Forrester and given to Elizabeth Erth of Plean, their mother, by breking of dishes by throwing them furth with earth and stones from the ground.' "

Deathbed Acknowledgement.—"On 18th July, 1476, appeared Nicholas Franch, Curate of the Parish Church of Strivlin, who sundry times with a loud voice enquired at Alexander Couser, burgess of the burgh, lying on sick bed *in extremis*, his eyes shut, if he were obliged in any debts of sums of money, or goods, to Robert Colly or Alexander Legate, for contracts of marriage between them and his daughters, and who responded in a low voice (*bassa voce*), *No.* Present—Sir Robert Alborne, chaplain." On the

same day Alexander appointed Alexander Couser, tutor to his grandson, William Couser.

Foundation of a Church Annual.—"On 17th October, 1476, John Crag, Bailie, by exhibition of a penny as use of Burghs is, gave sasine to Sir John Cockburn of half a pound of pepper, and 13s. 4d. of annual rent from a tenement in the High Street."

Investiture of a Chaplain.—"On 4th August, 1476, Sir William Inglegram, Chaplain, presents letters of collation of John, Bishop of Dunblane, under his round seal, directed to John Drummond, Dean of the Cathedral Church of Dunblane, who past to the chapter house of said Cathedral Church with said William and witnesses, and assigned the said William to a stall in the choir and place of chapter house called the Canonry and Prebend of Cummery, and gave him real and corporal possession."

Appointment of a Chaplain and his Vestiture in the Altar of Holyrood in the Parish Church of Stirling.—"On the 3rd March, 1476, in presence of the Provost, Bailies, Councillors, and community of burgh, sitting in judgment in the Tolbooth, and of a notary and witnesses, Thomas Lord de Erskine, Procurator for Sir Richard Brady, perpetual vicar of the Parish Church of Loutheroe and perfect chaplain of the altar of Holyrood, founded within the Parish Church of the said burgh, surrendered the said altar and chaplainry, with all fruits, lands, profits, &c., in the hands of Adam Bully, then Provost, and John Craig, one of the Bailies, in name and behoof of the Provost, Bailies, Councillors, and community, patrons of the said altar, and Maister Andrew Caignorth, chaplain, craved for his services done and to be done, and the Provost, &c., thereupon all assembled together to the number of 120 burgesses, unanimously conferred the said altar and chaplainry on him for his lifetime according to the tenor of the charter of donation

to be made thereupon under common seal, and John Craig, Bailie, at the command of the Provost, &c., passed with the said Andrew to the altar of Holyrood, and by touching and delivering to him of the book, chalice, ornaments, and horns of said altar, invested him in the chaplainry and fruits thereof.”

Evidence of Marriage.—In consequence of there being anciently no registry, in marriages of importance evidence was taken by a notary present at the solemnization, marriages being solemnized at the *door* of the church and not in the church itself. As an ancient custom, and as of local interest connected with Castle Campbell, the Duke of Argyle's then residence, and the church of Dollar, we add this further entry :—

“ 21 April, 1478.—In presence of Colin, Erl of Argyle, Lord Campbell and Lorne, Gilbert, Lord Kennedy, and notary and witnesses, Hugh, Lord of Montgomery, on the one part, and Elen Campbell, one of the daughters of the said Erl, on the

other part, passed to the door of the Parish Church of Dollar. Sir Patrick MacLeary, chaplain, asked them if they wished to be joined in marriage, who answered they did. Then the said Patrick asked them if they knew any impediment, or if either had made a contract before with any other person, or if they were constrained by force or fear thereto, who answered there was no impediment, but it was done of their own free will, and give their corporal oaths thereupon. Whereupon the said Patrick placed the said Hugh's hand in the said Elen's, and *per verba matrimonia de presenti* united them in marriage, and Hugh and Elen kissed each other in the name of matrimony. Done in the Church of Dollar, the 10th hour before noon or thereby."



